Information Access Unit
Information Management and Data Directorate

Date: 28/09/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017727/B

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017727/B

I write in connection with your request for information dated 25/09/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I want to submit an FOI request based on your news article: Man charged in relation to sexual offences against child under 16 | Greater Manchester Police

Please provide the following information.

1. How many individuals have been arrested as part of this investigation into a missing child?

2. For each individual, please disclose their a) gender, b) nationality), c) age (if unable to report on exact age, please report a range e.g,. 18 - 24 years old), d) primary reason(s) for arrest, e) dates of arrest

3. For each individual, please disclose whether they have been charged, what have they been charged with, and the date when they've been charged.

4. For each individual, please disclose their custody disposal information - have they been bailed, remanded, or was no further action taken by GMP?

5. For each individual, please disclose whether Greater Manchester Police contacted the Home Office's National Command and Control Unit (NCCU) as advised by the College of Policing who state that NCCU should be contacted immediately when dealing with any foreign national person.

6. If NCCU was contacted, please disclose when and how contact was made (e.g., via email or telephone).

7. Please disclose any notes or statements uploaded by officers handling this case in relation to these arrests, for example, their account of the arrest.

Please provide the information in an electronic format.

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police to locate information relevant to your request. I can confirm that the information you have requested is held by Greater Manchester Police. However, I am not obliged to supply the information you have requested as exemptions apply.

When refusing to provide such information because an exemption applies, Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires GMP, to provide you - the applicant - with a notice which: (a) states that fact, (b) specifies the exemption in question and (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

The requested information is exempt under **Section 21 – Information accessible to applicant by other means**, **Section 30(1) – Investigations and Proceedings Conducted by the Public Authority** and **Section 40(2) – Personal Information.**

Some information relevant to your request is publicly available in the news article on the GMP website that you included in your request.

Section 30 is a class based qualified exemption; there is a requirement to carry out a public interest test, which can be seen below.

Factors Favouring Disclosure

To disclose the information requested into the public domain would show GMP's accountability and satisfy the public that investigations into this crime are being conducted. It would also show GMP's use of public funds in investigating crimes of this nature.

Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

We accept that there is a legitimate and important public interest in publishing information about such crimes, however, conversely to the factors in favour of disclosure, to publicly release information that is related to investigations that remain ongoing may seriously undermine GMP's ability to complete the investigations to a full and correct conclusion.

Whilst this investigation might be seen as high profile by some, to disclose any details may still hinder the process needed to be followed.

Balancing Test

When balancing the public interest test GMP must consider whether the information should be released into the public domain, therefore arguments need to be weighed against each other. The most persuasive reason for disclosing the information would be the fact that disclosure would encourage transparency. This needs to be weighed against the strongest reason for non-disclosure, which in this case is the impact on GMP's ability to complete investigations to a full and correct conclusion. Therefore, having considered all the factors for and against

disclosure it is the decision at this time to maintain the above exemption and withhold the information from disclosure.

Section 40(2) covers information that identifies a living individual.To disclose this information would breach the principles of the Data Protection Act 2018. Personal data is defined by Section 1 of the Data Protection Act 2018 and means data that relates to an individual who can be identified directly or indirectly from that data.

Both Section 21 and Section 40 are absolute exemptions and there is no requirement to conduct a public interest test for such data.