GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE

Date: 10/09/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017332/M

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017332/M

I write in connection with your request for information dated 29/07/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

(1) For each financial year from 2019/20 to 2025/26 inclusive, the total cost incurred by the force in respect of policing or security provision attributable to [redacted] Manchester, in its capacity as a government site occupied by GCHQ. Please break this down by financial year, and where the force records it, by category of spend (officer time, overtime, equipment, physical security measures, other).

(2) If no cost was separately recorded or attributed to [redacted] during that period, please state that.

(3) The total cost incurred by the force in respect of policing or security provision at or around [redacted] from 20 July 2026 to the date this request is received.

(4) The latest estimate, forecast, projection or costing prepared by or for the force of the ongoing annual cost of providing policing or security provision at or around [redacted] in connection with its use as No 10 North.

(5) The total cost incurred by the force in respect of policing or security provision at the private residence of the Prime Minister within the force area, for the period 20 July 2026 to the date this request is received.

(6) For each financial year from 2017/18 to 2025/26, the total cost incurred by the force in respect of policing or security provision at the private residence of the then Mayor of Greater Manchester, if separately recorded.

(7) The latest estimate, forecast or costing prepared by or for the force of the ongoing annual cost of that provision.

(8) Confirmation of whether the force has entered into, or is negotiating, a collaboration agreement under section 22A of the Police Act 1996, a mutual aid arrangement under section 24 of that Act, a memorandum of understanding, or a funding agreement of any kind with the Metropolitan Police Service in connection with No 10 North, the Office for the Prime Minister and Cabinet in Manchester, or the protection of the Prime Minister within the force area.

(9) If so, the date of the agreement, the parties to it, and a copy of the latest such agreement or draft.

(10) Confirmation of whether the force has applied for, requested or received a Special Grant, Dedicated Security Post funding, or any other additional or ring-fenced funding from the Home Office, the Cabinet Office or any other government department in connection with the above, together with the amount sought, the amount received, and the date of application.

Result of Searches

Greater Manchester Police neither confirms nor denies that it holds information relevant to this request by virtue of the following exemptions**:**

S24(2) National Security
S31(3) Law Enforcement
S38(2) Health and Safety
S43(3) Commercial Interests

The exemptions above cover the following questions.

- Questions 1-5 - **S24(2) National Security, S31(3) Law Enforcement and S38(2) Health and Safety.**
- Question 6-7 - **S24(2) National Security, S31(3) Law Enforcement and S38(2) Health and Safety and S40(5) Personal information.**
- Questions 8-10 - **S24(2) National Security, S31(3) Law Enforcement and S38(2) Health and Safety and S43(3) Commercial Interests**

Harm 1

Greater Manchester Police can neither confirm nor deny whether information is held relevant to this request.

Whilst the request seeks information relating to costs, funding arrangements, agreements and policing activity, confirmation or denial that information is or is not held would itself disclose sensitive information regarding policing operations, protective security measures, resource allocation, operational planning and the existence or otherwise of specific security arrangements in relation to government premises, sites associated with national security, protected persons and other high-profile individuals.

Confirmation or denial could enable inferences to be drawn regarding threat assessments, policing priorities, deployment models, security capabilities and the level of protection afforded to particular locations or individuals. Such information may be of value to those seeking to identify vulnerabilities, undermine policing activity, circumvent security measures, target protected persons or otherwise cause harm.

Furthermore, any confirmation or denial would need to be considered alongside information already available in the public domain. When combined with other information, seemingly innocuous disclosures may contribute to a wider mosaic picture of policing and security arrangements, thereby revealing operationally sensitive information that would not otherwise be apparent.

As disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act is effectively disclosure to the world at large, confirming or denying whether information is held would create a real risk of prejudice to national security, law enforcement capabilities, public safety and the commercial interests associated with sensitive policing and security arrangements.

Harm 2

Whilst the request seeks information relating to costs, funding arrangements, agreements and policing activity, confirmation or denial that information is or is not held would itself disclose sensitive information regarding policing operations, protective security measures, resource allocation, operational planning and the existence or otherwise of specific security arrangements connected to government premises, sites associated with national security, protected persons and other high-profile individuals.

The applicant has framed their request around specific locations and premises rather than seeking information about protective policing arrangements in general terms. GMP recognises that it may, in certain circumstances, be publicly acknowledged that protection is afforded to individuals holding particular public offices. However, the issue in this case is not whether protection may generally be provided, but whether information is held concerning policing, security, funding or operational arrangements at specific identifiable locations.

Confirming or denying whether information is held in relation to those locations could reveal information about the presence, extent, nature or focus of policing and protective security activity at a particular site. Unlike a general acknowledgement that protective policing exists, a confirmation or denial linked to a specific building, premises or residence could enable conclusions to be drawn regarding operational deployment, threat assessments, security priorities and the likelihood of attendance or use of that location by protected individuals.

In respect of locations associated with the Prime Minister or other protected persons, GMP cannot assume when, how frequently, or under what circumstances such individuals may be present. Confirmation or denial that information is held regarding a particular location may therefore reveal sensitive information about protective security arrangements which is not otherwise publicly available. Such information could be of value to individuals seeking to identify vulnerabilities, undermine policing activity, circumvent security measures, target protected persons or otherwise cause harm.

Furthermore, any confirmation or denial would need to be considered alongside information already available in the public domain. When combined with other information, seemingly innocuous disclosures may contribute to a wider mosaic picture of policing, security and funding arrangements, enabling sensitive conclusions to be drawn regarding operational capabilities, deployment models, security measures and resource allocation.

As disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act is effectively disclosure to the world at large, confirming or denying whether information is held would create a real risk of prejudice to national security, law enforcement capabilities, public safety and the commercial interests associated with sensitive policing, security and funding arrangements.

Public Interest in Confirming or Denying Whether Information is Held – S24

There is a public interest in promoting transparency and accountability regarding the use of public funds and the deployment of policing resources.

Confirmation or denial may assist public understanding of the extent to which GMP commit resources to the policing and security of government premises, public office holders and other locations of public interest. Greater openness promotes informed public debate and enables the public to better understand how policing services are delivered and funded.

Public Interest in Neither Confirming Nor Denying Whether Information is Held – S24

There is a very strong public interest in protecting national security. Confirming or denying whether information is held would itself provide insight into policing and security arrangements associated with government-related sites, protected individuals and locations connected to national security functions.

Such disclosure may enable hostile actors to draw conclusions regarding security priorities, threat assessments, deployment models and the allocation of policing resources. When combined with other information already available, even limited disclosures may contribute towards a broader understanding of protective security arrangements through the mosaic effect.

Any compromise to national security would be contrary to the interests of the public and could have significant consequences for public safety and the effective discharge of policing responsibilities.

Public Interest in Confirming or Denying Whether Information is Held – S31

There is a public interest in promoting openness and accountability regarding policing activity and expenditure. Confirmation or denial may assist public understanding of how operational policing resources are prioritised and deployed and may contribute to public confidence that policing decisions are subject to appropriate scrutiny. Disclosure may also inform public debate concerning the effectiveness and efficiency of policing services by GMP.

Public Interest in Neither Confirming Nor Denying Whether Information is Held – S31

There is a substantial public interest in ensuring that law enforcement functions are not prejudiced.

Confirming or denying whether information is held could reveal the existence, scope or level of policing activity, specialist deployments, operational support arrangements or protective measures.

Such information may be of value to those seeking to disrupt policing activity, evade law enforcement, identify vulnerabilities or interfere with security arrangements. Releasing information capable of undermining policing tactics, operational capability or resource deployment would prejudice the prevention and detection of crime and would not be in the wider public interest.

Public Interest in Confirming or Denying Whether Information is Held – S38

There is a recognised public interest in openness concerning the expenditure of public money and the measures taken by GMP to protect individuals and locations. Confirmation or denial may contribute to public understanding of the steps taken by GMP to fulfil its responsibilities and may enhance public confidence in policing arrangements.

Public Interest in Neither Confirming Nor Denying Whether Information is Held – S38

There is a very strong public interest in protecting the health and safety of individuals. Confirming or denying whether information is held may disclose information from which the presence, absence, nature or extent of policing and security arrangements can be inferred.

Such disclosures could increase risks to protected individuals, police officers, police staff and members of the public by assisting those seeking to identify vulnerabilities or exploit perceived weaknesses in security arrangements. The public interest is strongly served by ensuring that information likely to increase risks to safety is not placed into the public domain.

Public Interest in Confirming or Denying Whether Information is Held – S43

There is a public interest in transparency regarding the expenditure of public funds and the arrangements entered by public authorities and in this case GMP specifically. Confirmation or denial

may enhance accountability for financial decisions, funding arrangements and collaborative working involving public money. Greater openness enables the public to scrutinise how resources are obtained, allocated and managed.

Public Interest in Neither Confirming Nor Denying Whether Information is Held -S43

There is a strong public interest in protecting the ability of Greater Manchester Police, government departments and partner organisations to negotiate, manage and review sensitive funding and support arrangements without prejudice. Confirming or denying whether information is held in relation to Special Grant applications, Dedicated Security Post funding, Home Office funding arrangements, Cabinet Office support, collaboration agreements, mutual aid arrangements or other financial mechanisms would itself reveal information about the existence, nature or extent of ongoing or planned resourcing arrangements.

Disclosure of this information could prejudice current or future negotiations between policing bodies, government departments and partner agencies by revealing information relating to funding requirements, financial support mechanisms, operational priorities and resource commitments.

It may also undermine the ability of those organisations to negotiate and manage such arrangements effectively, potentially impacting upon the provision of policing and protective security functions.

There is a recognised public interest in ensuring that public authorities can engage in frank discussions regarding funding, support and operational requirements and can secure appropriate financial arrangements without the risk of sensitive information being disclosed in a manner that may prejudice their negotiating position or future operational planning.

Balance Test Overall

Greater Manchester Police recognises the importance of transparency, accountability and public scrutiny regarding the expenditure of public funds, the deployment of policing resources and the arrangements entered by public authorities. Confirmation or denial of whether information is held could contribute to public understanding of policing activity, security provision, funding arrangements and collaborative working between police forces and government departments.

However, there is a substantially stronger public interest in ensuring that information is not disclosed, either directly or indirectly, where doing so could undermine national security, prejudice law enforcement activities, compromise protective security arrangements, increase risks to the safety of individuals, or prejudice sensitive funding, operational and collaborative arrangements between policing bodies and government departments.

The requested information relates to matters involving government premises, security-related activity, protected individuals, policing operations, resource allocation and potential funding or support arrangements involving organisations such as the Home Office, Cabinet Office, Metropolitan Police Service and other public authorities. Confirming or denying whether information is held would reveal information capable of contributing to an understanding of security measures, operational priorities, funding mechanisms and protective policing arrangements.

When considered alongside information already available in the public domain, any confirmation or denial could contribute to a mosaic of information from which sensitive conclusions may be drawn. This could undermine the effectiveness of protective policing and security arrangements, prejudice law enforcement functions, impact upon ongoing or future operational and funding discussions, and increase risks to protected individuals, police officers, staff and members of the public.

Having carefully considered the competing public interest arguments, Greater Manchester Police finds that the public interest in maintaining neither confirm nor deny position outweighs the public interest in confirming or denying whether information is held.

Accordingly, Greater Manchester Police can neither confirm nor deny whether the requested information is held.