Date: 09/10/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017661/A

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017661/A

I write in connection with your request for information dated 15/09/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

In the recent Annual progress and plan 2026, [redacted] GMP's Chief Resourcing Officer has made mention of an ambitious 25yr estates plan.

1. Please furnish me with a full copy of the 25yr estates plan including any projected costs associated with this plan.
2. Can you please confirm that all buildings occupied by GMP are owned by GMP.
3. Please provide a full inventory of ALL GMP police buildings, highlighting those not owned by GMP
4. A copy of GMP vehicle fleet list, listing the make and model of each vehicle, along with which Divisions are allocated which vehicles.

I understand that non liveried vehicle registration numbers are better to be partially redacted for operational use, but further redactions I feel are unnecessary.

Result of Searches
Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to locate the requested information and I can confirm the information requested is held by GMP.

However, I am not obliged to supply all the information requested as exemptions apply.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires GMP, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) 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 following Exemptions for this request are.

Section 21 – Information accessible to applicant by other means
Section 22(1)(a) –Information intended for future publication
Section 31(1) – Law Enforcement

Question 2 and 3 are exempt under **Section 21 – Information accessible to applicant by other means**. The response to this request is available online. Please follow the link below.

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Question 1 is exempt under **Section 22(1)(a) –Information intended for future publication.** The intended publication for the 25 year estates plan within the next 3 months.

As the exemption used is a qualified exemption a public interest test (PIT) needs to be applied.

Factors Favouring Disclosure
Disclosure of the requested information at the present time would allow the public to have access to the information immediately, would enhance public knowledge of the subject and would promote the accountability and aid transparency of GMP.

Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure
Reviewing and formatting the data at the present time, in response to a Freedom of Information request, would be a duplication of work and would involve a disproportionate use of GMP resources and would not be an economical use of public funds. Additionally, should the data from the upcoming report be released prematurely, there is the possibility that it may contain inaccuracies if it has not been subject to full scrutiny procedures.

Balancing Test
When balancing the Public Interest Test, we must consider whether the Public Interest is best served by the release of the information into the public domain immediately or by the withholding of the information. Arguments need to be weighed against each other. The most persuasive reason for disclosure is the facilitation of transparency of GMP, which needs to be weighed against the strongest negative reason, which, in this case, is the disproportionate use of GMP resources and an uneconomical use of public funds.

The exemption that applies to question 4 is: -

Section 31(1) – Law Enforcement

Section 31 - Law Enforcement is a qualified, and prejudice based exemption. Therefore, the harm should be articulated, and arguments given as to the public interest test.

Harm
The requested information, namely the number, make and model of police vehicles broken down by district, would provide a detailed insight into GMP's operational policing capabilities and the distribution of resources across the force area. Whilst police vehicles are visible within the community, the requested information would provide a centrally collated dataset that is not otherwise available to the public.

Disclosure would allow those with criminal intent to build a detailed picture of policing capacity, specialist capabilities and deployment patterns across Greater Manchester. By identifying the volume and type of vehicles assigned to particular districts, individuals could make informed assessments regarding police presence, response capability and operational resilience within specific geographic areas.

Knowledge of the distribution of vehicle types may enable criminals to identify districts perceived to have lower levels of policing resources, specialist capability or operational support. Such information

could be exploited to assist in the planning and commission of criminal activity while reducing the likelihood of detection or intervention.

In addition, the disclosure of vehicle makes and models could provide intelligence regarding the types of operational tactics and functions conducted within particular districts. For example, the concentration or absence of certain vehicle types may indicate the presence of specialist policing functions or operational priorities. When combined with other publicly available information, this may contribute to a "mosaic effect", whereby seemingly innocuous pieces of information can be combined to reveal sensitive operational capabilities.

The release of force-wide fleet information broken down by district would therefore provide intelligence of potential value to those wishing to undermine policing activities, prejudice the prevention and detection of crime, or avoid law enforcement intervention.

The disclosure of information that is likely to undermine GMP's operational effectiveness and its ability to prevent and detect crime can only be regarded as harmful to the public interest.

Factors Favouring Disclosure under Section 31
There is a legitimate public interest in promoting openness and transparency regarding the use of public funds and resources. Disclosure would allow the public to better understand the scale and composition of the police fleet used to deliver policing services across Greater Manchester.

Releasing fleet information may increase public confidence that resources are being distributed appropriately and efficiently across districts in accordance with operational demand and community needs.

Disclosure would also demonstrate accountability in relation to the acquisition and use of publicly funded assets and contribute towards the general principles of transparency and openness underpinning the Freedom of Information Act.

Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure under Section 31
Police forces have a duty to prevent and detect crime, apprehend offenders and protect the public. Releasing information which provides insight into the distribution and capability of policing resources has the potential to undermine these core functions.

Disclosure would reveal information regarding the relative concentration of police vehicles and specialist capabilities in specific districts. This intelligence could be used by individuals or organised criminal groups to identify areas where they perceive policing resources to be weaker or less readily available.

The requested information would contribute to a broader intelligence picture concerning GMP's operational capacity, deployment patterns and resource allocation. Whilst the information requested may appear limited in isolation, when combined with other information already in the public domain it could be used to infer operational strengths, vulnerabilities and policing priorities.

The public release of information that assists those intent on avoiding detection or disrupting law enforcement activity would be likely to prejudice the prevention and detection of crime and would therefore negatively affect public safety.

Any disclosure which is likely to undermine the Police Service's ability to effectively prevent and detect crime, protect the public and bring offenders to justice cannot be considered to be in the wider public interest.

Balance Test

Whilst there is a clear public interest in transparency and accountability regarding the use of public funds, there is a significantly stronger public interest in ensuring that GMP retains its ability to effectively prevent and detect crime and protect the communities it serves.

Disclosure of fleet numbers makes and models when broken down by district would provide a detailed insight into the distribution of operational policing resources across Greater Manchester. This information could be used to assess police capability and identify perceived vulnerabilities in resource allocation across different geographic areas.

The release of such information would assist those intent on committing criminal offences by enabling them to build a more comprehensive understanding of policing capacity and deployment patterns. This would be likely to undermine law enforcement activity and prejudice GMP's ability to protect the public.

The public interest is best served by ensuring that operational policing capabilities, resource deployment and force resilience are not compromised through disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act.

Therefore, it is our opinion that the balance of the public interest lies in maintaining the exemption and withholding the requested information.