Information Management & Data Directorate (IMDD)
Information Access Unit

Date: 20th October 2026
Our ref: FOI/26/017775/J

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: FOI/26/017775/J

I write in connection with your request for information dated 01/10/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

On 11/9/2009 The Independent newspaper ran an article headlined "Police Officer Jailed for working as £100 an hour call girl" in which it was reported that a judge at Newcastle Crown Court had sentenced a man called [redacted] to 4 years in jail for running brothels, managing prostitutes and aiding & abetting a police officer's misconduct. The court heard that [redacted] and his wife [redacted] were operating brothels across northern England, and that they also helped run [redacted], a three-storey brothel in Bury, Greater Manchester, which the court heard Greater Manchester Police 'tolerated', despite keeping a brothel being a serious offence under Section 33A of the Sexual Offences Act 1956.

The court heard that [redacted], based in [redacted], was mainly run by [redacted] father, [redacted]. [redacted] admitted keeping the brothel [redacted] in Bury from January 10th 2006 to November 10th 2008 and was fined £415 and [redacted] was apparently closed down.

However, since then, another brothel called [redacted] has operated from exactly the same location, in [redacted]. Official awareness of the existence of this brothel was confirmed by an article in Bury Times dated 23/09/2010 headlined "Club fined 5k after fire exit blocked", in which it was reported that on 15/12/2009 "police and Bury Council carried out a routine inspection" of [redacted].

1. ***Please explain the difference in treatment between the two brothels. In particular, why was the owner of [redacted] fined (and the brothel closed down), while no action appears to have been taken against the owners of [redacted] (assuming they are different people to the owners of [redacted]), despite [redacted] operating from exactly the same location in [redacted], and despite keeping a brothel being a serious offence under s33A SOA 1956?***

2. ***What is the current GMP policy in terms of enforcing the law against pimps and brothel-keeping, and when was this policy established?. In particular, is there a 'hierarchy' of brothels in which ones like [redacted] which have their own websites, operate daytime hours and use mainly white English prostitutes are deemed acceptable despite clearly being illegal?***

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to locate the requested information.

Question 1

Question 1 is not a valid FOI request for information as defined by the Freedom of Information Act. This is because Section 84 of FOIA relates to recorded information held by a public authority and that it does not extend to providing explanations or opinions unless the answers are already held in a recorded form. "Information is defined in section 84 of the Act as 'information recorded in any form'. The Act therefore only extends to requests for recorded information. It does not require public authorities to answer questions generally; only if they already hold the answers in recorded form."

Question 2

GMP do not have a policy relating to your request. GMP follows the National Policing Chief's Council (NPCC) Sex Work National Police Guidance.

Please see the below link for the relevant guidance.

NPCC - Sex Work National Police Guidance April 2025