

Date: 18/08/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017297/A

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017297/A

I write in connection with your request for information dated 22/07/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request copies of Greater Manchester Police's current policies, guidance and procedures relating to decision-making during the custody process, specifically in relation to detention, detention reviews, investigation progression and release decisions.

Please provide:

- 1. The guidance used by custody officers when assessing whether continued detention of an arrested person remains necessary, proportionate and lawful.***
- 2. The procedures and guidance relating to detention reviews under PACE Code C, including the factors that should be considered when reviewing whether detention should continue, such as investigation progress, outstanding enquiries and any delays.***
- 3. The guidance used when determining whether a person should be released on bail, released under investigation, or dealt with by another outcome.***
- 4. The roles and responsibilities of custody officers and investigating officers in relation to:***
 - decisions regarding continued detention;***
 - progression of investigations while a person remains in custody;***
 - timing of suspect interviews; and***
 - decisions relating to release.***

- 5. Any guidance relating to cases where property or digital devices have been seized and further investigative work, such as forensic examination, may be required before a case can progress.**

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.

Please see the following information adhered to via GMP Custody Procedure, Pace Code C and the College of Policing Guidance.

Question 1.

PACE Code C states that all persons in custody must be dealt with expeditiously and released as soon as the need for detention no longer applies. A Custody Officer must perform the functions in this Code as soon as practicable. A Custody Officer will not be in breach of this Code if delay is justifiable and reasonable steps are taken to prevent unnecessary delay. The custody record must show when a delay has occurred and the reason for the delay.

Question 2.

(PACE Code C), An Inspector will typically review:

- The necessity for continued detention.
- Whether the investigation is being conducted diligently and expeditiously.
- The detainee's welfare and treatment, including healthcare needs.
- Whether the detainee has been informed of their rights and entitlements.
- Any delays in the investigation or detention process.
- The appropriateness of ongoing detention and whether alternatives exist.

PACE Review Timings

- First review: No later than 6 hours after detention was authorised.
- Subsequent reviews: At intervals of no more than 9 hours.
- Reviews can be conducted in person or remotely where permitted.

Inspector Considerations

The Inspector should consider:

1. Grounds for arrest and detention.
2. Evidence obtained so far.
3. Outstanding enquiries.
4. Whether detention remains necessary and proportionate.
5. Any representations made by the detainee or their solicitor.
6. Risk issues, including vulnerability, self-harm, and medical concerns.

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PACE requires Custody Officers to remain impartial and independent of the investigation. They may give advice and guidance if it does not influence the investigation. The Custody Officer's primary role is to uphold a detainee's rights and welfare and ensure that all persons in police detention are treated with dignity, respect and in accordance with PACE, ensuring that all matters relating to their treatment are recorded on the custody record.

Question 3.

From College of Policing - As a Custody Sergeant, the key principle is that detention after charge or investigation must always be justified, necessary, proportionate, and lawful. Decisions should be recorded using the National Decision Model (NDM) and relevant PACE provisions.

Question 4.

• decisions regarding continued detention;	PACE Code C states that all persons in custody must be dealt with expeditiously and released as soon as the need for detention no longer applies however. Communication between the investigating officer and custody officer must continue throughout the detention period the continued detention is justifiable. An investigating officer may seek to extend the period of detention for an indictable offence, and a Superintendent or above may authorize continued detention up to a maximum of 36 hours from the relevant time.
• progression of investigations while a person remains in custody;	The investigating officer will continue to update the custody officer regarding the progress of the investigation who will ensure that the decision to continue the detention should be recorded using the National Decision Model (NDM) and relevant PACE provisions. Detentions will all be subject to review by an officer of at least the rank of Inspector pre-charge for PACE offences.
• timing of suspect interviews;	The custody officer will, in consultation with the investigating officer, ensure that investigation including interviews are conducted expeditiously and any delay is justifiable and reasonable
• decisions relating to release.	In England and Wales, the custody officer has an independent responsibility under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE) to decide whether a suspect should continue to be detained, be released, or be remanded following charge. The custody officer must act independently of the investigation and ensure any detention is lawful and necessary.

Question 5.

Matters relating to the processing of seized property belong the investigating officer. The custody officer must act independently of the investigation and ensure any detention is lawful and necessary.