



Date: 28/08/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017345/R

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017345/R

I write in connection with your request for information dated 31/07/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I would be grateful if you could provide the following details regarding your police force's IT expenditure for the past three fiscal years (from 2023/24 to 2025/26):

1) Total IT Expenditure:

Please provide the overall IT expenditure for each of the last three fiscal years.

2) Software Expenditure:

Please provide the total spend on software for each of the last three fiscal years. This should include initial software licence fees, software maintenance fees, and subscription fees but should exclude associated services such as installation.

3) Cell-Site, Communications Data and Digital Forensics Software – Supplier and Spend Detail:

For each of the last three fiscal years, please provide the following for any software used for cell-site analysis, communications data analysis (e.g. call data records / CDRs), digital device extraction analysis, or associated intelligence / link analysis. This includes, for example, products supplied by Forensic Analytics Ltd, Chorus Intelligence Ltd, or equivalent providers:

- the name of the supplier and the product(s) held;*
- the total spend or annual contract value (including licence, maintenance and subscription fees, but excluding associated services such as installation, training or consultancy);*
- the number of software licences or named users held;*

If supplier- or contract-level information is not held in this form, I would instead be grateful for the total software spend (as defined at point 2 above) on software of this type — i.e. software primarily used by cell-site / communications data units, digital forensics units, or intelligence /

analysis teams, as opposed to software used across the wider police force — for each of the last three fiscal years.

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to locate information relevant to your request. I can confirm that the information you have requested is held by GMP.

1.

TOTAL	23/24	24/25	25/26
Revenue	£33,605,568.64	£35,768,097.25	£37,663,608.66
Capital	£8,191,835.42	£8,166,944.18	£6,783,306.79

2.

TOTAL	23/24	24/25	25/26
Revenue	£25,057,901.01	£27,466,792.56	£30,635,494.78

This includes the National IT Charges we pay to the Home Office and Police Digital Service.

3. This information is exempt under **Section 21 – Information Reasonably Accessible By Other Means** and **Section 31(1)(a)(b) – Law Enforcement**.

Details of the contracts with these suppliers are publicly available on the Bluelight Procurement Hub:

- Forensic Analytics Limited <https://sell2.in-tend.co.uk/blpd/view-contract?secureid=b460d623-0b05-4444-9c27-a54931fd3717>
- Forensic Analytics Limited <https://sell2.in-tend.co.uk/blpd/view-contract?secureid=2030ec8a-7161-4bdd-96f0-decd97ed0362>
- Chorus Intelligence Limited: <https://sell2.in-tend.co.uk/blpd/view-contract?secureid=c6f5f259-f490-4b38-b8f1-013a339ea85a>
- Chorus Intelligence Ltd <https://sell2.in-tend.co.uk/blpd/view-contract?secureid=d83564e7-c085-420b-b27c-a09cc3f72327>
- Chorus Intelligence Ltd <https://sell2.in-tend.co.uk/blpd/view-contract?secureid=e78a2b5b-1dab-4482-b3a6-12c72ccdbde6>
- Magnet Forensics LLC <https://sell2.in-tend.co.uk/blpd/view-contract?secureid=9b6cd91e-6a6d-427e-b7cb-db33c6581347>
- Cellebrite UK Limited <https://sell2.in-tend.co.uk/blpd/view-contract?secureid=7d0562d6-b695-465c-8a09-9f397d021bfb>

Section 31 is a qualified and prejudice-based exemption and as such, subject to a harm and public interest test.

S31(1) - Evidence of Harm

A Freedom of Information Act request is not a private transaction. Both the request itself and any information disclosed, are considered suitable for open publication. This is because under the Act, any information disclosed is released into the wider public domain, effectively to the world, not just to an individual.

Whilst not questioning the motives of the applicant, providing any further information relating to software used within intelligence, communications data and digital forensics functions would reveal our digital forensic capability more broadly, which would be of intelligence value to criminals.

Disclosure of policing tactics and the tools at the police's disposal will mean that those members of the public who are committing crimes and pose a risk to the public, would be able to formulate ways to circumvent the tactics and tools used. If disclosed the tactics will become less effective and will mean that the police are not able to detect and prevent crime, apprehend, or prosecute offenders or to administer justice for the wider community.

There is always a duty of care to the general public, and the Police Service has a clear responsibility to ensure the prevention or detection of crime, and the apprehension or prosecution of offenders is always delivered. There are several tactics available to the Police Service to ensure the effective delivery of operational law enforcement. In this case, such policing activity is required to undertake fair investigations where it may be necessary to progress a range of reasonable lines of enquiry. An example of this maybe where accounts are provided to the police by victims, suspects, and witnesses. But by the nature of requirements, a forensic strategy and data extraction may well be required for further evidential purposes.

As such, the disclosure of any further information which would hinder the forces law enforcement functions cannot be in the public interest.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring disclosure for S31 - Where public funds are being spent, there is a public interest in accountability and justifying the use of public money. Disclosure of the requested information would enable the public to assess whether the force has appropriately taken steps to help reduce crime by such means as the use of technological assistance. Release would enhance public debate as to whether the force is appropriately and effectively engaging with the threat posed by the criminal fraternity.

Factors against disclosure for S31 - Disclosure that reveals our digital forensic capabilities would compromise law enforcement tactics. Criminals could use the information to target areas of weakness knowing that their activities are less likely to be detected. It may be used by criminals who are intent on pursuing their criminal activity, to identify and exploit the limitations of these resources.

This is an area of increasing technological changes and as such the use of digital forensic data to assist with investigations or operations is a valuable tool. To release information relating to tools or technologies utilised for digital forensics would have a detrimental effect on our policing capabilities. Therefore, to mitigate any risks, disclosure of this information needs to be protected, to ensure that those with intent to do so cannot manipulate it or undermine its purpose in any way.

Any disclosure of information which would compromise law enforcement tactics and thus lead to more crime being committed by reducing the opportunity for the prevention and detection of crime, would therefore increase the risk to public safety, which is not in the public interest.

Balancing Test

Law enforcement is of paramount importance, and the Police service will not disclose information if to do so, it would undermine its purpose and place the safety of individual(s) at risk. Whilst there is a public interest in the transparency of using public money in policing appropriately and effectively engaging with the threat posed by criminals, there is a very strong public interest in safeguarding the integrity of police investigations and operations in this area.

As much as there is public interest in knowing that policing activity is appropriate and balanced in matters of law enforcement, this will only be overridden in exceptional circumstances. The use of digital forensic tools, whether for the extraction of data, cell site analysis or any other aspect of policing within the digital environment, is a police tactic that is open to police forces for the purpose of law enforcement and can assist in the prevention and detection of crime. Any disclosure which hinders our capability and assists criminals cannot be in the public interest.

It is for these reasons that I have determined that the balance test favours non-disclosure of the requested information.