

Date: 7th September 2026
Our ref: FOI/26/017355/T

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: FOI/26/017355/T

I write in connection with your request for information dated 04/08/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

- 1. Does Greater Manchester Police provide its Police Officers with bodycam footage facilities regarding any arrests or stop and searches that they are involved with?***
- 2. If so, how long is bodycam footage of Police Officers involved in an arrest or stop and search retained by Greater Manchester Police for?***
- 3. Does Greater Manchester Police have CCTV recording coverage in police cars where a suspect has been arrested or stopped and searched and placed in a police car by the arresting officers?***
- 4. If so, how long is CCTV recording coverage in police cars retained by Greater Manchester Police where a suspect has been arrested or stopped and searched and placed in a police car by the arresting officers?***

CLARIFICATION

In relation to your query regarding the meaning and application of "footage facilities", this relates to bodycam cameras which may or may not have been supplied to all constables in the Greater Manchester Constabulary in support of their operational duties in the Greater Manchester Constabulary area.

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to locate the requested information. I can confirm the information requested is held by GMP. However, I am not obliged to provide all the information requested as exemptions apply.

Question 1

Yes.

Question 2

Arrests and stop and searches that are evidential should be saved with a retention category of 6 years and other stop and searches have a category of 5 years retention.

Question 3 and 4

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

Section 31(3) Law Enforcement

Section 31 is prejudice based and qualified which means that there is a requirement to articulate the harm in confirming or not whether information is held as well as carrying out a public interest test.

Harm

Confirming or denying whether Greater Manchester Police holds information relating to the existence of CCTV recording systems within police vehicles would reveal information about operational policing capabilities and evidential recording practices.

Information disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act is considered to be released into the public domain and available to anyone. Confirmation or denial of the requested information would provide insight into whether interactions between police officers and suspects within police vehicles are recorded, and if so, the extent to which such evidence may be available. This information could be used by individuals seeking to avoid detection, challenge police tactics, modify their behaviour when interacting with the police or exploit perceived gaps in evidential recording capabilities.

Greater Manchester Police has a duty to protect information where disclosure would be likely to prejudice the prevention and detection of crime and the apprehension or prosecution of offenders. It is therefore considered that confirming or denying whether the requested information is held would be likely to cause prejudice to law enforcement functions.

Public Interest Test

Factors Favouring Confirmation or Denial

Confirming or denying would promote openness and transparency regarding the use of recording technology used by Greater Manchester Police and it would assist the public in understanding how police interactions with members of the public may be recorded.

It would contribute to public debate regarding the accountability of police officers and the collection and retention of evidential material.

Factors Against Confirmation or Denial

There is significant public interest in protecting information which would reveal details of police operational capabilities and limitations. Confirming or denying whether Greater Manchester Police vehicle contain CCTV would provide greater insight into the extent to which police interactions within vehicles are recorded and the evidential opportunities available to investigators.

Confirmation or denial of the requested information could therefore be used by individuals seeking to avoid detection, evade law enforcement or otherwise hinder police investigations. Such individuals may adapt their behaviour based on their understanding of police recording capabilities and perceived evidential limitations.

Furthermore, confirmation or denial could contribute to the "mosaic effect", whereby pieces of information obtained from a variety of requests are combined to build a more detailed picture of policing tactics, resources and operational capabilities. Whilst any individual disclosure may appear innocuous, the cumulative effect of such disclosures can reveal vulnerabilities that would not otherwise be apparent.

There is a strong public interest in ensuring that law enforcement tactics, techniques and capabilities remain effective and are not undermined through disclosures made under the Freedom of Information Act.

Balance Test

Greater Manchester Police recognises the importance of openness, transparency and accountability within policing and acknowledges that there is a public interest in understanding how technology is used to support police activity.

However, there is a stronger public interest in ensuring that law enforcement functions are not compromised. Confirming or denying whether information is held would reveal operational capabilities and vulnerabilities. Such disclosure would be likely to prejudice the prevention and detection of crime and the apprehension or prosecution of offenders.

Therefore, it is our opinion that for these issues the balancing test for confirming or denying whether any information is held regarding this matter is not made out.

None of the above can be viewed as an inference that the information you seek does or does not exist.