



Date: 01/09/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017382/W

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017382/W

I write in connection with your request for information dated 05/08/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am writing under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request copies of two sets of records identified in the Greater Manchester Combined Authority's published progress report of 11 November 2024 on the implementation of the Baird Inquiry recommendations.

1. *The Voluntary Attendance procedure launched by GMP in March 2024 (reported under Recommendation 1: "In March 2024 GMP launched its new Voluntary Attendance procedure") — or the corresponding approved record however titled, including any record GMP now holds as a Voluntary Attendance policy. Please provide (a) the version in force on 13 November 2024, and (b) the current version held on the date this request is received.*

2. *The records comprising the Recommendation 3 arrest-pack implementation: the "Suspect Policy & Procedure document of May 2024", which GMP reported became "live" in July 2024, together with the templates (including any blank arrest-pack template) and associated guidance forming part of that implementation. Please provide (a) the versions in force on 13 November 2024, and (b) the current versions held on the date this request is received.*

For each record, please include any document-control or version-history page forming part of it, together with its recorded version number and implementation date. Where those dates are not stated in the record itself, please provide any separately held recorded version-control information, insofar as recorded — I do not ask GMP to create a new chronology. If a requested record has since been renamed, revised, incorporated into another policy or procedure, or is

maintained as an approved intranet page rather than a standalone document, please provide the corresponding record and identify the title under which it is held. If the 13 November 2024 version and the current version are identical, one copy together with confirmation of that fact will suffice.

For the avoidance of doubt, I am requesting blank institutional policy, procedure, guidance and template documents only. I am not requesting completed arrest packs, records relating to any identifiable investigation or individual, personal data, or system-security information.

If any part of the requested records is considered exempt, I would ask that you disclose the remainder with redactions rather than withhold a record in full, and that you identify the exemption relied on for each redaction.

There is a clear public interest in disclosure: the report presents both sets of records as measures adopted in response to the Baird Inquiry's concerns regarding arrest practice and the under-use of voluntary attendance in Greater Manchester, and records the relevant recommendations as discharged with ongoing monitoring and compliance checks required. Publication would allow the public to understand the standards and guidance GMP adopted for pre-arrest decision-making.

I look forward to your response within 20 working days.

I am writing under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following recorded information. This request does not seek information about any individual investigation or item of property, nor operational-security details concerning property-store locations, access controls, alarms, keys, codes or security vulnerabilities — such material may be treated as outside its scope.

3. *Management of Property Directory material in force on 13 November 2024. From the GMP Management of Property Directory as in force on 13 November 2024, please provide: (a) its cover or title page, table of contents, and document-control, version-history and amendment pages; and (b) section 13 (property retention) in full, including any annex, appendix or schedule forming part of, or expressly applied by, that section. GMP's response to FOI 23.011720.H referred to the Directory as "Fourth Edition (v4.1)"; if a different version, or a separately versioned section 13, was in force on 13 November 2024, please provide the applicable material instead, together with its recorded implementation date.*

4. *Documents expressly governing retention reviews. Please provide any separate GMP policy, procedure or guidance that was expressly cross-referenced or incorporated by section 13, was in force on 13 November 2024, and contained requirements concerning the review or continued retention of evidential property — including any recorded requirements concerning (a) fixed, periodic or event-triggered review timing; (b) the recording of a review, its outcome and the justification for continued retention, including the system or record on which this was to be recorded; and (c) supervisory oversight, escalation or compliance monitoring. If all such information is contained in the material provided under item 1, no duplicate copy is required; where an expressly referenced document is already reasonably accessible online, its exact title, version and location will suffice.*

5. *Replacement of section 13. Please provide existing recorded information — change logs, policy-approval records, implementation or withdrawal notices, or equivalent records or extracts — showing: (a) any amendment made to section 13 between 13 November 2024 and*

its replacement; (b) the recorded approval and implementation or effective dates of the Evidential Management of Property Retention Procedure v1 (June 2025, published in FOI response 25.014851.X); and (c) the date on which section 13 ceased to apply. I do not ask GMP to prepare a new chronology, schedule or analysis if no such recorded information is held.

6. If no single historical copy is held. If GMP does not hold a single frozen historical copy of the Directory, or of section 13 as at 13 November 2024, please say so and provide the archived component sections, version-control records or implementation records that are held and that establish the text and status of section 13 on that date.

If any information within a requested record is considered exempt, please disclose the severable remainder with redactions rather than withholding the record in full, and identify the exemption relied on for each withholding or category of redaction. If GMP considers that compliance may exceed the appropriate cost limit, please provide advice and assistance under section 16 — in particular, whether narrowing the request to item 1 and the effective-date information in item 3 would bring it within the limit — before refusing in full.

There is a clear public interest in disclosure. This request is confined to historical governance and retention material at a defined date. GMP has already published the June 2025 evidential-property policy and retention procedure that replaced this material, and previously disclosed an extract from the Directory itself (FOI 23.011720.H, linked above). Disclosure of the predecessor retention provisions would allow public scrutiny of the framework governing continued police possession of private property before the published replacements took effect, and of a defined policy transition. Any genuinely sensitive operational-security information can be considered separately from the non-sensitive version-control and retention-governance material.

I look forward to your response within 20 working days.

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 you with all the information as an exemption applies.

The information requested exempt under **Section 14(1) - Vexatious Requests**.

The Freedom of Information Act is a piece of legislation designed to give the public access to information held by public authorities. It exists to make the decisions of those authorities transparent and to keep the public better informed regarding matters which affect them.

A public authority can refuse requests which can divert resources away from more deserving requests and other public business or threaten to undermine the credibility of the freedom of information system. It is recognised that dealing with unreasonable requests can place a strain on resources and get in the way of delivering mainstream services.

When identifying potentially vexatious requests the indicators contained within the Information Commissioner's guidance on Section 14(1) should be considered. In this case we feel the

following indicator applies to your request: **Burden on the Authority.** [How do we consider burden, motive and harassment? | ICO](#)

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 14(1) of FOIA a request deemed as overly burdensome does not oblige GMP to comply with a request for information. The ICO confirms within their guidance that they consider there to be a high threshold for refusing a request on such grounds if there is a viable case in line with the below recommendations:

- 1) The requester has asked for a substantial volume of information and
- 2) The authority has real concerns about potentially exempt information, which it will be able to substantiate if asked to do so by the ICO and
- 3) Any potentially exempt information cannot easily be isolated because it is scattered throughout the requested material.

As such, your request is being refused due to the amount of time required to review and prepare the information for disclosure, which would impose a grossly oppressive burden on GMP. To provide the data requested would involve manual review and redactions to 133 pages of 10 separate policy & procedure documents so they do not contain operationally sensitive and personal information which could identify directly or indirectly a living human therefore Section 31(1)(a)(b) Law Enforcement and Section 40(2) Personal Information will be engaged as this represents information that identifies a living individual, to disclose this information would breach the principles of the GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018. Personal data is defined by Article 4 of the GDPR and Part 1 of the Data Protection Act 2018 and means any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person ('data subject'). An identified natural person is one who can be identified directly or indirectly from that data. The time taken to review and redact these documents would cause a grossly oppressive burden on GMP.