

Date: 19/08/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017422/N

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017422/N

I write in connection with your request for information dated 10/08/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am writing under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request information concerning [REDACTED] and the investigation being conducted by Greater Manchester Police under

I understand that this is an ongoing investigation and that GMP may be unable to disclose confidential investigative material, personal information concerning victims or witnesses, or information that could prejudice any investigation or prosecution. I am therefore requesting only information that can lawfully be disclosed.

Please confirm the following:

1. Arrest and allegations

- * The date and location of [REDACTED] arrest.*
- * The exact offences/suspected offences for which he was arrested and interviewed.*
- * The broad nature and approximate period of the allegations.*
- * Whether the allegations involve more than one complainant and, if disclosable, the approximate number.*

2. Current investigation and bail status

- * Whether he remains under investigation and on pre-charge police bail.*
- * The current date by which he is required to answer bail.*
- * Whether GMP records that he failed to attend a scheduled bail appointment in July 2026.*
- * Whether GMP received medical evidence explaining his failure to attend.*

3. CPS / prosecution

- * Whether the investigation has been referred to the Crown Prosecution Service.*
- * If so, whether a charging decision has been made, further investigation requested, or the matter remains under consideration.*
- * Whether any allegations against him have been recorded as No Further Action.*

4. Warrant / return to the UK

- * Whether GMP has considered or obtained a warrant in relation to his failure to attend bail.*
- * Whether GMP is taking or considering any steps to require his return to the United Kingdom.*

5. Pakistani authorities

Please confirm whether GMP has communicated with the Pakistani authorities, FIA, Interpol or the British High Commission concerning [REDACTED], particularly regarding his return to the UK. Please provide the date and general purpose of such communication where this can lawfully be disclosed.

6. Operation Edison – 22 arrests

GMP has publicly stated that 22 people have been arrested under Operation Edison. Please provide aggregate figures showing how many of those 22 have:

- * been charged;*
- * been convicted;*
- * had proceedings discontinued;*
- * been recorded as No Further Action; and*
- * remain under investigation.*

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 all of the information held as an exemption applies. Questions 1-5 and part of Q6 of this request are exempt from disclosure by virtue of the following exemption:

Section 30(1)(a)(b)(c) – Investigations and Proceedings Conducted by Public Authorities.

Section 30 is a class based qualified exemption; there is a requirement to carry out a public interest test, which can be seen below.

Section 30 - Factors Favouring Disclosure

To disclose details of the ongoing investigation of [REDACTED] into the public domain, would show GMP's accountability, and satisfy the public, that investigations into such incidents are being conducted correctly. It would also show GMP's use of public funds in apprehending suspects of crimes.

Section 30 - Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

Conversely, there are strong public interest considerations in maintaining the exemption. The requested information relates to investigations which remain open and unresolved. Disclosure of information connected to ongoing investigations could significantly prejudice GMP's ability to pursue all available lines of enquiry and bring those investigations to a full and accurate conclusion. Public release of investigative material, police reports or associated footage may reveal information that has not previously entered the public domain, enabling individuals connected to the investigation, either

directly or indirectly, to alter their behaviour, tailor their accounts, influence witnesses, or interfere with evidential opportunities.

Such prejudice is particularly acute in high-profile cases which are subject to heightened media attention and public scrutiny. In these circumstances, disclosure has the potential to generate significant public speculation, commentary and scrutiny of individual aspects of the investigation before all evidence has been gathered and assessed. This may place additional pressure on witnesses, affect witness recollection, influence potential testimony, and create risks to the integrity of the investigative process.

Furthermore, disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act is effectively disclosure to the world at large. Once information enters the public domain, GMP has no control over its subsequent use, interpretation or dissemination. There is therefore a real risk that partial or incomplete information could be reported, shared or commented upon without the full evidential context available to investigators. This could undermine public confidence in the investigation and hinder the effective administration of justice.

There is also a significant public interest in ensuring that criminal investigations are conducted free from external interference and that any future judicial proceedings are not compromised. Premature disclosure of investigative material may undermine the rights of individuals who may become subject to criminal proceedings, including their right to receive a fair trial based solely on evidence properly tested through the criminal justice process. On balance, disclosure would be likely to prejudice the prevention and detection of crime, the apprehension and prosecution of offenders, and the effective administration of justice.

Balancing Test

When balancing the public interest test GMP must consider whether the information should be released into the public domain, therefore arguments need to be weighed against each other. The most persuasive reason for disclosing the information would be the fact that disclosure would encourage transparency.

This needs to be weighed against the strongest reason for non-disclosure, which in this case is the impact on GMP's ability to complete investigations to a full and correct conclusion.

Therefore, having considered all the factors for and against disclosure it is the decision at this time to maintain the above exemption and withhold the information from disclosure.

Please see the remaining response GMP can provide.

Question 6.

12 suspects are currently on police bail.

In line with the exemption above, no further information will be provided at this time..