

Thursday, 27 August 2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017432/P

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017432/P

I write in connection with your request for information dated 11/08/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 / FOISA 2002 for Police Scotland.

Please provide the current force policy, instruction, or guidance that sets out the standards of appearance and dress for:

- 1. Police officers working in plain clothes, and*
- 2. Police staff working in non uniformed or plain clothes roles*

This includes (but is not limited to):

- Dress code or appearance standards specific to plain clothes roles*
- Any section within a Uniform, Dress Code, Appearance, or Professional Standards policy that applies to non uniformed officers or staff*
- Any locally approved guidance or annexes relating to plain clothes attire*

If the information is contained within a wider policy document, please provide the relevant section(s) rather than a summary.

Scope clarification (to avoid delay)

To assist, I am not requesting:

- Personal data,*
- Tactical or operational detail relating to covert tactics,*
- Security sensitive material (e.g. surveillance methods).*

If the force does not hold a single standalone policy, please confirm which document(s) contain the relevant standards and supply those

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police to locate information relevant to your request.

Please see below the extraction from Uniform and Dress Standards Policy & Procedure:

“5.2 All Officers and Staff

5.2.1 Appearance – Non-Public Facing Staff

Detailed below are the standards of dress and appearance expected of staff not covered in section 5.1.2.

5.2.1.1 Standard of Dress for non-uniformed roles

- Where staff are representing the force, or have contact with members of the public, they should be dressed to create a professional image, e.g. business suits or formal jackets, and trousers/skirt/dresses. Male staff should wear a shirt and tie.*
- GMP embraces diversity within our dress standards and recognise some staff may require, due to religious reasons, adjustments to their dress. Staff are directed to the Diversity in Dress section of this policy.*
- Where contact with the public or personnel from other organisations is unlikely, a smart standard of dress appropriate to the nature of the work undertaken is acceptable.*
- Where the type of work involved makes a formal standard of dress impractical, (e.g. manual type work) all clothing/footwear must be presentable and appropriate to the nature of the work, taking into account any health and safety risks posed by the particular task.*

The following items of dress are not acceptable:-

- Jeans, or items made from denim.*
- Leggings.*
- Shorts.*
- Very short skirts.*
- T-shirts with large motifs, slogans or logos.*
- Eveningwear, e.g. party wear, heeled sandals/platform shoes.*
- Sportswear, including football/rugby shirts and tracksuits.*
- Cropped tops.*

5.2.1.2 Footwear

Formal or business shoes appropriate to the type of work must be worn. Any specific risks associated with the type of work or the workplace should be considered in the choice of footwear.

5.2.1.3 Hair, Nails and Make Up

Hairstyles, nail polish and makeup should be appropriate to the individual and their working environment, but extreme or vivid colours must be avoided. Where individuals chose to have semipermanent or permanent make-up, such as false eyelashes, microblading and other forms of cosmetic tattoos, these should be natural looking. Exceptions to this principle may apply under the Equality Act and other policies, such as the Disability Management Toolkit and the Gender Reassignment and Transition Management Toolkit.

5.2.1.4 Facial Hair

Male staff should be cleanly shaven unless they have a beard, moustache, sideburns or a combination of these, which must be neatly trimmed at all times. If for religious reasons, a beard cannot be trimmed please refer to the Diversity in Dress section

5.2.1.5 Jewellery

A modest amount of jewellery is acceptable, this includes a watch and charitable bracelets. However, any jewellery worn should not create a risk to the individual in undertaking their role.

Rings are permitted to be worn. Where the wearing of rings interferes with the activity, the equipment in use or the PPE being worn at the time; rings should be removed. Some examples may include manual handling tasks, working with machinery, access equipment etc.

Except in the case of cultural/religious observance, visible body piercing, other than earrings are not generally acceptable in the workplace. Managers should consider the possibility of the piercing(s) adversely impacting on the individual's duties and/or the image of the force before exercising discretion on this issue.

If piercing is worn, consideration must always be given to the nature of work undertaken and any associated risks from the piercing.

Staff should be aware that all items of jewellery are worn at the owner's own risk and there is no facility to compensate individuals for damage to or loss of personal items."