



Date: 07/09/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017441/Q

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017441/Q

I write in connection with your request for information dated 12/08/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am requesting recorded information held by Greater Manchester Police relating to investigations into suspected illegal streaming services and illegal IPTV services.

This request is limited to policies, procedures, agreements and aggregated information. It does not seek information relating to identifiable individuals, suspects, victims, intelligence sources, covert tactics, operational methods, or ongoing investigations.

For the purposes of this request, "third-party organisations" means non-police organisations representing or acting on behalf of rights holders, broadcasters, sporting organisations, content owners, or anti-piracy bodies.

1. Policies and arrangements involving third-party organisations

Please provide copies of any current policies, procedures, guidance documents, memoranda of understanding, partnership agreements or protocols held by Greater Manchester Police which govern the involvement of third-party organisations in investigations concerning suspected illegal streaming services or illegal IPTV services.

2. Attendance of third-party organisations during search warrant activity

Between 1 January 2022 and the date of this request, please confirm whether representatives of third-party organisations have attended the execution of search warrants by Greater Manchester Police relating specifically to suspected illegal streaming services or illegal IPTV services.

If such attendance has occurred, please provide:

- a) The organisation represented;*
- b) The number of occasions on which representatives of that organisation attended;*
- c) The recorded role or purpose of their attendance.*

This request does not seek the names, personal details, or identities of individual representatives.

3. Disclosure or transfer of seized digital material to third-party organisations

Please provide copies of any policies, procedures or written guidance held by Greater Manchester Police concerning the disclosure, transfer, or provision of access to digital material obtained during investigations concerning suspected illegal streaming services or illegal IPTV services to third-party organisations (as defined at the beginning of this request).

Please confirm whether, between 1 January 2022 and the date of this request:

- a) Physical seized exhibits, including computers, servers, phones, storage devices or other digital media, have been transferred to such third-party organisations or their representatives; and/or*
- b) Forensic images, extracted data, digital evidence copies, or other electronic material obtained from seized devices have been provided to such third-party organisations or their representatives.*

If such sharing has occurred, please provide any policy, procedure or written guidance governing such disclosure.

4. Search powers used in illegal streaming/IPTV investigations

Between 1 January 2022 and the date of this request, please provide the total number of search warrants executed by Greater Manchester Police relating specifically to suspected illegal streaming services or illegal IPTV services.

For those warrants, please provide the statutory power(s) under which entry and search was authorised.

No information relating to individual addresses, suspects, investigations, intelligence, or operational activity is requested.

If any information within this request is considered exempt under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide the remaining non-exempt information and identify the specific exemption relied upon.

Result of Searches

Information relating to parts 2, 3 and 4 of your request is not held in an easily retrievable format, if it is indeed held at all. There is no centrally held record of search warrants and data sharing activity, and in order to provide such data would require each division, sub-division and possibly each individual officer to undertake necessary searches to establish if this has happened and if so on how many occasions.

To comply with the whole of your request the process would take over 18 hours' work and therefore exceeds the appropriate limit of £450.00, the amount to which we are legally required to respond i.e. the cost of locating and retrieving the information exceeds the 'appropriate level' as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice

GMP is obligated, pursuant to section 16(1) of the Act to provide you with advice and assistance on refining your request to bring compliance within the fees limit. The only advice that GMP can give is that you specify a particular divisional area within GMP to make your request more manageable within the fees limit of the act, although this still may not be possible for even one divisional area.

Should you wish to refine and resubmit your request in line with the advice above please respond to freedomofinformation@gmp.police.uk.