



Date: 07/09/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017453/U

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017453/U

I write in connection with your request for information dated 13/08/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I request the following recorded information for the most recent three complete financial years available, together with year-to-date figures where held:

1. *Total expenditure on language interpretation and translation services (including spoken language interpreting, written translation, and any related costs such as telephone or video interpreting).*
2. *A breakdown of that expenditure by:*
 - a. *Spoken language interpreting*
 - b. *Written translation*
 - c. *Other interpretation/translation services (please specify)*
3. *The total number of interpretation/translation jobs or assignments commissioned in each year, if held.*
4. *The top five languages by expenditure (or by volume of assignments) in each year, together with the corresponding spend or number of assignments for each.*

Please provide the information in spreadsheet format (Excel or CSV) if possible, with separate columns or tables for each financial year.

If any element of the request exceeds the cost limit under section 12, please advise what refinement would bring it within the appropriate limit and, where possible, supply the information that can be provided within the limit. If any part is considered exempt, please cite the specific exemption and explain its application.

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 provide all the information requested as exemption applies.

When refusing to provide such information because an exemption applies, Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires GMP, to provide you - the applicant - with a notice which: (a) states that fact, (b) specifies the exemption in question and (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

The exemption which applies to questions 1 and 2 is **Section 43(2) – Commercial Interests**. Section 43 is a prejudice based and qualified exemption and as such, subject to a harm and public interest test.

Harm

To disclose the information asked for within this request may prejudice the Force's future commercial interests and tender process. Disclosure will likely leave GMP in a position where it is not able to negotiate the best value for money in the future and may also prejudice the commercial interests of those providing services to GMP, as external agencies may set certain prices depending on a variety of factors. If the price provided to GMP is different to costs set to other agencies, this could jeopardise the interests of these providers. This could decrease competition for our business, and costs could increase as a result.

Factors favouring disclosure

Disclosure would provide better understanding, accountability and justification as to how GMP spends public funds.

Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

Disclosure of expenditure could damage any future tender processes, as contractors would be aware of how much money GMP pay for a particular service. Therefore, this could give an unfair advantage to other companies applying for such contracts with GMP. To disclose such information would leave GMP in a vulnerable position in respect of a civil action being brought against GMP by the contractor.

If the information was to be disclosed it would likely harm GMP's economical use of public funds for such said contracts, as the cost could be used as a 'benchmark' to other companies who apply for future contracts. This could prevent GMP from getting the best value for money. Considering this, to disclose the requested expenditure information would prejudice the interests of GMP regarding future contracts.

Balancing test

When balancing the public interest Greater Manchester Police must consider whether the information should be released into the public domain. The most persuasive reason for disclosing the information would be that there would be a better public understanding of how GMP spends public funds. This needs to be weighed against the strongest reason for non-disclosure, which, in this case is damage that may be caused to GMP & service providers in relation to future contracts. In this instance, the case for disclosure is not made out.

The remainder of your request is not exempt, and can be answered as follows:

3. This varies year on year as it is a demand-based service.

4. Urdu, Arabic, Farsi, Kurdish, Romanian.

Some information relating to the contract between GMP and our translation service provider is publicly available through the Bluelight Public Contract Register: <https://sell2.intend.co.uk/blpd/view-contract?secureid=e4a63a53-a005-43a6-8bb2-cd511b0e5452>