

Date: 18th August 2026
Our ref: FOI/26/017462/V

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: FOI/26/017462/V

I write in connection with your request for information dated 14/08/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Following changes to the Police Conduct Amendment Regulations around the 'use of force' threshold (implemented 30 June 2026), I would like to know:

- 1. How many gross misconduct cases have now been withdrawn?***
- 2. How many gross misconduct cases are ongoing?***
- 3. Of these cases, what was the nature of the incident in terms of force used?***
- 4. Of these cases, what was the nature of the incident in terms of crime? I.e. why were officers dispatched.***
- 5. Gender and ranking of officer(s) involved.***

The data provided should relate to GMP.

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to locate the requested information. I can confirm the information requested is held by GMP. However, I am not obliged to provide all the information requested as exemptions apply.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Greater Manchester Police, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) 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

Question 3 - 5 has been exempt from disclosure by virtue of the following exemptions:

Section 40(2) – Personal Information

Section 31(1)(g) – Law Enforcement

Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption which means that there is no need to quantify the harm that may arise from the disclosure; neither is it subject to a public interest test.

To release personal information held by Greater Manchester Police, would breach the data protection principles; namely –

- Data is lawfully and fairly processed.
- Processed in line with an individual's rights.
- Data is secure.

Personal information cannot be released under the Freedom of Information Act.

Section 31(1)(g) Law Enforcement by virtue of (2)(b) for the purposes of ascertaining whether any person is responsible for any conduct which is improper.

Section 31 is a qualified, prejudiced-based exemption and there is a requirement to provide evidence of harm and conduct a public interest test.

Harm

To release details about cases which are currently ongoing could potentially undermine them. It is important that public authorities are allowed to fully investigate any allegations of improper conduct without fear of any speculation entering the public domain and undermining the investigation. Greater Manchester Police is accountable in ensuring that any conduct matters are investigated and dealt with thoroughly and fairly.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring disclosure under Section 31(1)(g)

There is a general public interest in disclosure and openness concerning police misconduct matters. There is a public interest in giving assurance to the public that effective arrangements are in place for preventing and detecting improper conduct.

Factors favouring non-disclosure under Section 31(1)(g)

Investigations into any breach of standards of professional behaviour rely upon the willing participation and cooperation of people in the investigation process. The effectiveness of the investigation process is maintained by the understanding among those who participate in it that any information which they provide about the circumstances surrounding any breach of standards of professional behaviour is kept in confidence, unless there is a lawful reason to do otherwise. It is vital that participants provide their information freely and openly and, in an environment, where they can trust that their information will not be prematurely disclosed, or released simply upon request.

If participants did not trust that their information would be kept in confidence then it would deter them from cooperating with investigations. This would be likely to prejudice the exercise of Greater Manchester Police's function in investigating allegations of misconduct and, it follows, would undermine its maintenance of the various legal requirements about confidentiality of information. The value of investigations, such as those which are conducted into alleged breaches of standards of professional behaviour, rely on discretion, full cooperation and frankness from individuals involved.

Any release of information relating to ongoing investigations could prejudice and undermine those investigations. In addition, the right to a fair trial could be undermined.

Balance test

Greater Manchester Police take all matters of misconduct very seriously and thoroughly investigate all instances reported to allow appropriate and proportionate punishment to be enforced or any parties to be identified and exonerated. Although the assurances that release of this information would provide are important, it is of paramount importance that the integrity of these investigations are not jeopardised. Release of any information that may interfere or prejudice investigations of this kind would not be undertaken. Therefore, on balance it is our opinion that the factors supporting release of this information are outweighed by those opposing and this information will not be released.

Response to remainder of your request

Question 1 – 0

Question 2 – 3