

Monday, 07 September 2026

Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017488/F

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017488/F

I write in connection with your request for information dated 19/08/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Is there any evidence that I can be supplied with stating the police presence at Manchester Airport terminal 2 drop off point at 10:49am on the 26th June 2026.

I have been sent a parking notice (which I have paid). APCOA parking have replied to me and stated if I can get proof of the presence of the police I can apply for a full refund of the said charges.

Result of Searches

Greater Manchester Police can neither confirm nor deny that we hold any information relevant to your request by virtue of the following exemption:

- **Section 31(3) – Law Enforcement**

Harm – Section 31

Airports represent highly sensitive infrastructure. To confirm or deny whether specific law enforcement or security operations were present at the airport on the date specified would provide tactical intelligence regarding operational footprints, capabilities, and monitoring thresholds. Revealing this operational presence, or lack thereof, would compromise the efficacy of future, similar deployments. Those with criminal or hostile intent could exploit this knowledge to map security deployments, identify potential vulnerabilities, and counter tactical methodologies, thereby severely undermining the prevention and detection of crime and the protection of public safety.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring confirmation or denial - There is a public interest in transparency, accountability, and reassuring the public that transport hubs are appropriately monitored and secured.

Factors favouring neither confirming nor denying - Confirming or denying whether an operation was active at the airport would inadvertently disclose operational intelligence to the public. If tactical footprints or deployment patterns are revealed, the strategic value and effectiveness of future, identical operations would be significantly diminished. It is vital that law enforcement retains the element of surprise and operational anonymity to successfully prevent crime and secure aviation environments.

Balance Test

While we acknowledge that transparency regarding security spending and activity fosters public confidence, this is heavily outweighed by the necessity to safeguard operational tactics. If we confirm or deny our presence, we compromise the safety of the airport and the public. Consequently, the public interest lies firmly in maintaining the exclusion of the duty to confirm or deny.