

## **Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)**

### **Decision notice**

**Date:** 28 February 2024

**Public Authority:** Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police  
**Address:** GMP Headquarters  
Central Park  
Northampton Road  
Manchester  
M40 5BP

#### **Decision (including any steps ordered)**

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1. The complainant has requested information regarding murders which had occurred within a year.
2. The Commissioner's decision is that the above public authority ("the public authority") breached section 10(1) of FOIA by failing confirm or deny holding the requested information, and section 17(1) by failing to issue an appropriate refusal notice within the statutory time frame of 20 working days.
3. The Commissioner does not require further steps to be taken.

#### **Request and response**

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4. On 12 May 2023, the complainant wrote to the public authority and requested information in the following terms:

"- Please provide a list of murders which have occurred within the past one whole year - from 12 May 2022 to 12 May 2023, with the following details:

- The name and date of birth of the deceased (or age)
- The nearest Town or City where the incident happened
- A brief circumstance of the murder/MO (The victim was stabbed to death/The victim received gunshot wounds). If the cause of death is

unknown, please provide a brief circumstance of how the deceased may have been found.

(!) If the investigation is ongoing with no suspect identified, or you feel that providing the circumstances may jeopardise the investigation, please highlight this next to each entry.

Please can you provide this in the format of a word or PDF document in a simple table.”

5. The public authority responded on 11 February 2024.

### **Reasons for decision**

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6. Section 1(1) of FOIA states that:

“Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled –

(a) to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request, and

(b) if that is the case, to have that information communicated to him.”

7. Section 10(1) of FOIA states that a public authority must comply with section 1(1) promptly and “not later than the twentieth working day following the date of receipt”.
8. Section 17(1) obliges the authority to issue a refusal notice in regard to any exempt information within the same timescale, stating the exemptions being relied upon to withhold information.
9. From the evidence provided to the Commissioner in this case, it is clear that the public authority did not deal with the request for information in accordance with FOIA. The Commissioner finds that the public authority has breached section 10(1) by failing to respond to the request within 20 working days.

## **Right of appeal**

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10. Either party has the right to appeal against this decision notice to the First-tier Tribunal (Information Rights). Information about the appeals process may be obtained from:

First-tier Tribunal (Information Rights)  
GRC & GRP Tribunals,  
PO Box 9300,  
LEICESTER,  
LE1 8DJ

Tel: 0203 936 8963

Fax: 0870 739 5836

Email: [grc@justice.gov.uk](mailto:grc@justice.gov.uk)

Website: [www.justice.gov.uk/tribunals/general-regulatory-chamber](http://www.justice.gov.uk/tribunals/general-regulatory-chamber)

11. If you wish to appeal against a decision notice, you can obtain information on how to appeal along with the relevant forms from the Information Tribunal website.
12. Any Notice of Appeal should be served on the Tribunal within 28 (calendar) days of the date on which this decision notice is sent.

**Roger Cawthorne**  
**Team Manager**  
**Information Commissioner's Office**  
**Wycliffe House**  
**Water Lane**  
**Wilmslow**  
**Cheshire**  
**SK9 5AF**