

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

### **Decision notice**

**Date:** 20 October 2021

**Public Authority:** Chief Constable 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 requested from the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police ("GMP") information relating to the amount paid in damages and legal costs by GMP in 2020 and the law firms commissioned to provide legal services to GMP in 2020.
2. By the date of this notice GMP had not provided a substantive response to this request.
3. The Commissioner's decision is that GMP has failed to respond to the request within 20 working days and has therefore breached section 10 of the FOIA.
4. The Commissioner requires GMP to take the following steps to ensure compliance with the legislation.
  - Issue a substantive response to the request in accordance with its obligations under the FOIA.
5. GMP must take these steps within 35 calendar days of the date of this decision notice. Failure to comply may result in the Commissioner making written certification of this fact to the High Court pursuant to section 54 of the Act and may be dealt with as a contempt of court.

## Request and response

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6. On 28 June 2021, the complainant wrote to GMP and requested information in the following terms:  
  
*“Please supply me with the details of:*
  1. *How much money that the force paid out in damages and legal costs in 2020?*
  2. *What law firms were commissioned to provide legal services to GMP in 2020?”*
7. By the date of this notice GMP had not responded to the complainant.

## Scope of the case

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8. The complainant contacted the Commissioner on 13 September 2021 to complain about GMP’s failure to respond to his request.
9. The Commissioner contacted GMP on 5 October 2021 reminding it of its responsibilities and asking it to provide a substantive response to the complainant within 10 working days.
10. The Commissioner also contacted the complainant on 5 October 2021 to explain that GMP had been given 10 working days from that date within which to provide a response to his request.
11. By the date of this notice GMP had not responded to the complainant.
12. The scope of this notice and the following analysis is to consider whether GMP has complied with section 10 of the FOIA.

## Reasons for decision

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13. Section 1 of the 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.*

14. Section 10 of the FOIA states that responses to requests made under the Act must be provided, "*promptly and in any event not later than the twentieth working day following the date of receipt.*"
15. GMP did not provide a substantive response to the request within 20 working days of receipt. Therefore, the Commissioner's decision is that GMP has breached section 10 of the FOIA.

## Right of appeal

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16. 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)

17. 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.
18. Any Notice of Appeal should be served on the Tribunal within 28 (calendar) days of the date on which this decision notice is sent.

**Signed .....**

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