

Greater Manchester Combined Authority
Churchgate House
Oxford Street
Manchester
M1 6EU

23 August 2018

Dear Mr Hobson,

RE: FOI 270

Thank you for your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 received by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority on 30 July 2018 regarding GMCA's 'A Shared Future' report.

Request:

'Please would you provide by return a copy of all written communication and logs of any verbal communication, internal and external relating to the inaccurate and misleading description of the extremism described in the case study J of your document "A shared future" released this morning.

For absolute clarity you described "concerns about his extreme beliefs in relation to the environment, specifically issues around fracking." when it was specifically not, in fact, anything to do with fracking as was revealed this evening in the Guardian newspaper.

I would ask you specifically to include details of any correspondence with the police of Home Office relating to this'

Response:

As requested, please find attached correspondence relating to the process by which the changes to 'Case Study J' were made. We can confirm that the GMCA has now corrected the factual inaccuracy detailed within 'Case Study J'.

With regards to your request for copies of correspondence between GMCA and the Home Office, I can confirm that no communication around this issue has taken place with the Home Office.

As part of your request involves personal information about individuals, we have carefully considered whether it is appropriate to make this disclosure without breaching data protection legislation. Due to the nature of the subject matter and the small number of individuals involved, we believe that to release all of the details

contained in the information held would lead to the unlawful identification of those individuals.

Therefore the information we hold on this matter is exempt from disclosure under Section 40 of the FOIA 2000. Section 40(2), which is an absolute exemption, states that personal data relating to third parties (i.e. a party other than the person requesting the information) is exempt information if one of the conditions in Section 40(3) is satisfied.

It is the GMCA's view that disclosure of this information would breach one or more of the Data Protection Principles in the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA). For example, disclosure would breach the fair processing principle, as it would be unfair on the person who the personal data relates to, and they have a reasonable expectation that the GMCA would hold that information in confidence.

Please note if you are not satisfied with this response you may ask for an internal review, however, you must do so within 40 working days of the date of this response. If you wish to complain you should contact Julie Connor, Head of Governance, who can be contacted via enquiries@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk. Kindly quote your reference number, which is FOI 270, in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you are entitled to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Address: Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
www.ico.gov.uk

Telephone No.: 0303 123 1113

I will now close your request as of this date.

Yours Sincerely,

Information Officer
Greater Manchester Combined Authority

From: Harper, Smyth
Sent: 30 July 2018 18:10
To: Shori, Rishi
Cc: Lee, Kevin; Hughes, Beverley
Subject: Statement re case study

Hi Rishi

Here's a suggestion for the statement correcting the case study issue. Andy's had a look and happy with it.

What do you think?

The *A Shared Future* report contains a number of case studies where some details have been changed to protect the identities of those involved. This is standard practice where sensitive information is being used in a report.

However, in one of these case studies - Case Study J - a factual detail has been altered which should not have been.

The case study mistakenly said that concerns were raised around fracking. They were actually raised around a form of environmental extremism – but it had nothing to do with fracking.

Although this change was made with the good intention of protecting the individual's identity, ultimately it was the wrong thing to do. We apologise for this error.

Because of a genuine fear that this vulnerable child could be identified, we cannot give more specific details about the type of extremism.

Smyth Harper

Head of Communications

Greater Manchester Combined Authority
Mayor of Greater Manchester's office

DD: // General inquiries: 0161 608 4092

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ANDY BURNHAM
MAYOR OF
GREATER
MANCHESTER

GMCA GREATER
MANCHESTER
COMBINED
AUTHORITY

From: Harper, Smyth
Sent: 30 July 2018 18:38
To: Lee, Kevin; Boylan, Eamonn;
Mayor ; Lightfoot, Andrew; Hughes, Beverley; GMP Press
Office; I ; Norman Claire; Shori, Rishi
Subject: Statement on changed case study

Good afternoon all

Regarding the change which was made to a case study in the cohesion report, the following statement has now been agreed.

Statement from Councillor Rishi Shori, chair of the Tackling Hateful Extremism and Promoting Social Cohesion Commission:

The *A Shared Future* report contains a number of case studies where some details have been changed to protect the identities of those involved. This is standard practice where sensitive information is being used in a report.

However, in one of these case studies - Case Study J - a factual detail has been altered which should not have been.

The case study mistakenly said that concerns were raised around fracking. They were actually raised around a form of environmental extremism – but it had nothing to do with fracking.

Although this change was made with the good intention of protecting the individual's identity, ultimately it was the wrong thing to do. We apologise for this error.

Because of a genuine fear that this vulnerable child could be identified, we cannot give more specific details about the type of extremism.

Smyth Harper

Head of Communications

Greater Manchester Combined Authority
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ANDY BURNHAM
MAYOR OF
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GMCA GREATER
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From:
Sent: 20 July 2018 11:59
To:
Subject: RE: Prevent Case Study

Hi

That's great – thank you very much!

Have a great day

Greater Manchester Combined Authority
1st Floor, Churchgate House, 56 Oxford Street, Manchester M1 6EU
Mobile:

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From:
Sent: 20 July 2018 11:57
To:
Subject: RE: Prevent Case Study

Yes that feels more comfortable and less identifiable. I have just offered a suggestion below – maybe take out the reference to and have him become to know to them another way.

Hope this helps.

Best Wishes

From:
Sent: 20 July 2018 11:41
To:
Subject: RE: Prevent Case Study

Good morning

Thank you for your quick response. I completely share your concerns. Your idea around changing the motivation is a good one – I have changed to anti-fracking (please see below), what are your thoughts on the edit?

Aaron 14 year old “A” star pupil was referred to the Channel programme by his school, due to concerns about his extreme beliefs in relation to the environment, specifically issues around fracking. Having recently [redacted] (maybe instead attended a local protest or signed a petition?), Aaron had been targeted via social media and encouraged to participate in more local protests, hand out leaflets etc. by local activists. These approaches became progressively more aggressive to a point where Aaron was on the periphery of engaging in criminal behaviour and frequently reported to the police as missing by his parents.

Aaron had a number of underlying vulnerabilities, including potentially undiagnosed Autistic Spectrum Disorder, he was socially isolated and prone to self-harm. The family was offered a therapeutic long term intervention, however, despite the best efforts of the therapeutic team, the intervention had minimal impact on his behaviour: school attendance continued to be poor and visits to rallies and engagement with the activists continued.

Tremendous efforts were made by both parents to monitor Aaron’s social media account and this had a significant impact in terms of averting potential adverse criminal incidents. Due to their monitoring of their son’s social media usage, the parents were able to locate him quickly and before any harm was inflicted. Without this support by the parents in terms of this social media monitoring, the child could have come to more harm.

The child continued to engage with the local activists via social media, including through the “dark web” and local partners were struggling to identify a tactic which would effectively disrupt this behaviour and protect Aaron.

A few months later, Aaron is more settled at school, his attendance has improved and he is engaging with appropriate peers.

- The police and other partners have a wealth of disruption tactics at their disposal. Learning from other crime types such as Child Sexual Exploitation should be translated into other arenas. It is known that the abduction warning is a simple, yet effective tactic.

- We can leave it out it is just such a great case study, but like you say is a memorable one!

Greater Manchester Combined Authority
1st Floor, Churchgate House, 56 Oxford Street, Manchester M1 6EU
Mobile:

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Yes I see your problem. People working in could easily work out who this is as it was such an unusual –

. Would it work to changing it to something like

3

be the same but it would be harder for someone reading it to make the connection to the real case of both the matter were different.

What do you think? As it stands I would not be comfortable with it being published

Best Wishes

From:
Sent: 19 July 2018 13:36
To:
Subject: Prevent Case Study

Good afternoon

My name is , at the Combined Authority for all things Police, Criminal Justice and Fire. One of my current projects is the writing of the report for the Preventing Hateful Extremism and Promoting Social Cohesion Commission that Andy Burnham announced following the Arena attack. I have been passed your contact details from as we would like to include a Prevent case study presented at the that I am concerned about the potential breach of confidentiality if you knew the child involved and was wondering your thoughts. There is no personal information in the case study, but obviously if you knew the child you could guess that it was them. I was just wondering what your thoughts about inclusion would be? some other details made more general. Unfortunately, I am

running short of time, with the Commissioners meeting for the final time this coming Tuesday, so if you could have an answer back to me by then I would really (really!) appreciate it – sorry I know how busy you are.

Mental health and learning difficulties were a common feature in the cases presented in the Channel Peer Reviews. One Example is Aaron's story.

Aaron 14 year old "A" star pupil was referred to the Channel programme by his school, due to concerns about his extreme beliefs in relation Having recently turned Aaron had been targeted via social media and encouraged to participate in , hand out leaflets etc by local activists. These approaches became progressively more aggressive to a point where Aaron was on the periphery of engaging in criminal behaviour and frequently reported to the police as missing by his parents.

Aaron in this case had a number of underlying vulnerabilities, including potentially undiagnosed Autistic Spectrum Disorder, he was socially isolated and prone to self-harm. The family was offered a therapeutic long term intervention, however, despite the best efforts of the therapeutic team, the intervention had minimal impact on his behaviour: school attendance continued to be poor and visits to rallies and engagement with the activists continued.

Tremendous efforts were made by both parents to monitor Aaron's social media account and this had a significant impact in terms of averting potential adverse criminal incidents. Due to their monitoring of their son's social media usage, Aaron's parents were able to locate him quickly and before any harm was inflicted. Without this support by the parents in terms of this social media monitoring, Aaron could have come to more harm.

Aaron continued to engage with the local activists via social media, including through the "dark web" and local partners were struggling to identify a tactic which would effectively disrupt this behaviour and protect Aaron.

Having explored a number of avenues, with limited success, a decision was made to issue an abduction notice to the main protagonist of the social media lobbying. These notices prohibit an individual from making contact with a named child and a breach is a criminal offence. Within two hours of the notice being issued, Aaron was "de-friended" on social media by all those individuals who had encouraged his activist behaviour. When Aaron tried to access his "friends", he received no responses and as such, whilst the underlying vulnerabilities still remain and continue to be monitored, the threat in terms of his involvement in extremist activity, which had been becoming more intense, was resolved.

A few months later, Aaron is more settled at school, his attendance has improved and he is engaging with appropriate peers.

LEARNING:

- The police and other partners have a wealth of disruption tactics at their disposal. Learning from other crime types such as Child Sexual Exploitation should be translated into other arenas. It is known that the abduction warning is a simple, yet effective tactic.
- The impact of social media in terms of "grooming" of vulnerable and isolated individuals cannot be underestimated. In this case, the parents were extremely adept at monitoring social media activity. This is not the norm. More work should be done locally and nationally to increase the awareness of the impact and influence of social media. Parents should be encouraged to attend learning events.

Kind regards

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From:
Sent: 19 July 2018 13:25
To:
Subject: RE: Greater Manchester Preventing Hateful Extremism and Promoting Social Cohesion Commission Report

Thanks that's really helpful!

Greater Manchester Combined Authority
1st Floor, Churchgate House, 56 Oxford Street, Manchester M1 6EU
Mobile:

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From:
Sent: 18 July 2018 17:24
To:
Subject: RE: Greater Manchester Preventing Hateful Extremism and Promoting Social Cohesion Commission Report

Hi

That is a difficult question –
effective mask as the sequence of events and case are so distinct.

The best answer for me would be to ask representatives. (Ass Director Social services)for example will give a really good perspective on how appropriate use of the case study is given identification potential and child's current wellbeing. If appropriate they could speak with the child's parents and see if they consent.

I think that this approach would give all involved, child, family and agencies, the best cover.

Kind regards

Greater Manchester Police HQ
Central Park
Northampton Road
Manchester
M40 5BP

From:
Sent: 18 July 2018 09:44
To:
Subject: Re: Greater Manchester Preventing Hateful Extremism and Promoting Social Cohesion Commission Report

Hi

Thanks for the flag! Will amend. Do you think the case study is suitably anonymised (once edited!)? I'm a little worried about this one, it is a great case study that provides an alternative perspective,
I've asked out Data Protection guys here to have a look at it but would appreciate your thoughts.

Thanks

Greater Manchester Combined Authority

On 17 Jul 2018, at 19:19, "

wrote:

Hi

It's a well written report and I have no substantive comment to make beyond a need to engage more with Chinese and black communities amongst others when we develop our wider cohesion work. These communities seem under-represented in the surveys.

I mentioned to [redacted] earlier that I had spotted an editing requirement in Case Study J – [redacted]. Unfortunately towards the end we refer to [redacted] so there is a little more editing work to do please.

I am familiar with this case from [redacted] which is why I picked it up – you may wish to double check the other case studies.

Kind

Greater Manchester Police HQ
Central Park
Northampton Road
Manchester
M40 5BP

From: GMcohesion [<mailto:GMcohesion@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk>]
Sent: 11 July 2018 12:30
To: Darra Singh; saima alvi; Shalni Arora; Hilary Pilkington; Office Administration; nazir afzal; [redacted]; Worrall Fiona; Samiya Butt; Jeanette Staley - EXTERNAL; Shefali Kapoor; [redacted]; Roney, Joanne
Cc: Lightfoot, Andrew; Stretton, Jean; Shori, Rishi; Lee, Kevin; Smyth Harper - EXTERNAL;

Subject: RE: Greater Manchester Preventing Hateful Extremism and Promoting Social Cohesion Commission Report

Afternoon all,

Please accept this as a gentle reminder that comments on the attached draft are requested by close of play this Friday – please would you reply with any comments or tracked changes to GMCohesion@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk. Also following a suggestion at the last Commissioners' meeting, please would you also include your views on the key message for the media.

If you'd find it easier to talk comments through, my direct line is

Take care,

From:

Sent: Friday, 6 July, 2018 07:18

To: Darra Singh <>; saima alvi <>; Shalni Arora <>; Hilary Pilkington <hilary.pilkington@manchester.ac.uk>; Office Administration <info@smallsteps.ltd>; nazir afzal <>; Worrall Fiona <f.worrall@manchester.gov.uk>; Samiya Butt <s.butt@manchester.gov.uk>; Staley, Jeanette <Jeanette.staley@salford.gov.uk>; Shefali Kapoor <s.kapoor@manchester.gov.uk>; Roney, Joanne <j.roney@manchester.gov.uk>; Lightfoot, Andrew <Andrew.Lightfoot@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk>; Millett, Claire <claire.millett@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk>; Stretton, Jean <jean.stretton@oldham.gov.uk>; Shori, Rishi <R.Shori@bury.gov.uk>; Lee, Kevin <>; Harper, Smyth <>;

Subject: Greater Manchester Preventing Hateful Extremism and Promoting Social Cohesion Commission Report

Good morning all

Please find attached the final draft of the Commission's report. The Executive Summary and recommendations have been updated, and I hope that they reflect our conversations a few weeks ago. Minimal changes have been made to the main body of the report, where changes have been made these have been tracked for your reference. I am on leave now for a week so please review the draft and have all comments back by close of business on Friday, 13th July. Please send all comments to GMCohesion@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk so that Claire can monitor it and record responses in my absence.

On my return w/c 16th July, I will redraft, incorporating suggestions and will recirculate which should be (hopefully!) the final version of the report by close of business on Friday 20th in preparation for our meeting the following week.

If there are any further questions, please contact either <> or <> in my absence.

Many thanks

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[<image001.png>](#)

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<http://www.gmp.police.uk/emaildisclaimer>

From: Harper, Smyth
Sent: 30 July 2018 18:42
To: ; info@smallsteps.ltd; ;
hilary.pilkington@manchester.ac.uk; ;
Cc: Shori, Rishi; ; Millett, Claire;
Subject: Clarification to be issued around extremism case study

Good evening commissioners

There is an issue with one of the case studies in the report. On advice given by the relevant children's services department, a change was made of the type of extremism mentioned on Case Study J – page 89/90.

This initially said , but following advice given by the relevant children's services department, this was changed to a different form of campaigning to further protect the identity of the youngster involved.

This was done in good faith, but should not have happened, so we are correcting the record and Rishi will issue a statement making this clear.

The statement is below.

Regards

Smyth

Statement from Councillor Rishi Shori, chair of the Tackling Hateful Extremism and Promoting Social Cohesion Commission:

The *A Shared Future* report contains a number of case studies where some details have been changed to protect the identities of those involved. This is standard practice where sensitive information is being used in a report.

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Smyth Harper

Head of Communications

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