

Reference: 3932152

Contact: Information Governance Team  
foi.officer@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk

Date: 3 February 2022

Matthew J Ramsden

**William Monaghan**  
Information Governance Officer  
Greater Manchester Combined Authority  
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www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk

Dear Mr Ramsden,

### **Freedom of Information Act 2000**

Thank you for your request for information which was received by us on 6 January 2022, regarding:

*It is widely considered that relating to the Kerslake Report and the Manchester Arena Inquiry that GMFRS may be at fault for not responding appropriately during the Manchester Arena ('MENA') bombing that tragically occurred on 22 May 2017. The appropriate evidence has been withheld by the Inquiry for being irrelevant, so I am now submitting a request pursuant to the provisions pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('FOIA').*

*I am seeking access to the appropriate emergency reports and emergency action plans that would have occurred on the night. I further wish for access to the information that you have used to amend those policies, and the emergency action plans you rely upon.*

### **GMCA Response**

I can confirm that Greater Manchester Combined Authority holds this information.

However, we are withholding that information as we consider the following exemptions apply;

Under section 21 of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), we are not required to provide information in response to a request if it is already reasonably accessible to you by other means.

Much of the information you have requested is available on the Manchester Arena Inquiry website and is explained in witness evidence. This information can be found here - [Manchester Arena Inquiry](#)

We also consider that the absolute exemption set out in Section 44 (Prohibitions on disclosure) subsection 1 (c) applies to some of the information requested. Therefore, we have decided to withhold the information. This exemption is an absolute exemption and does not require us to conduct a public interest test to apply it.

At this moment in time the information requested is subject to a Restriction Order made by Sir John Saunders on 23 July 2020 because of the operational sensitivity assigned to it.

We believe that if we were to disclose the information requested, we would be in breach of the Restriction Order that is currently in place. You can view a copy of this Order on the Manchester Arena Inquiry website here - [Directions, orders and responses – Manchester Arena Inquiry](#)

This response therefore acts as a refusal notice under section 17 of the FoIA.

If you have any queries or concerns then please do not hesitate to contact us, quoting your reference number: 3932152

If you are not satisfied with this response you may ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter and should be addressed to:

[foi.officer@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk](mailto:foi.officer@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk)

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

*Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF*

If you need further clarification with regards to Freedom of Information you can go to the Information Commissioners website [www.ICO.org.uk](http://www.ICO.org.uk)

Yours sincerely,

<u>BOLTON</u>	<u>MANCHESTER</u>	<u>ROCHDALE</u>	<u>STOCKPORT</u>	<u>TRAFFORD</u>
<u>BURY</u>	<u>OLDHAM</u>	<u>SALFORD</u>	<u>TAMESIDE</u>	<u>WIGAN</u>

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