

Email FOI.Officer@greatermanchester
-ca.gov.uk

Matt O'Donoghue
(by email only)

Greater Manchester Combined
Authority
Churchgate House
56 Oxford St,
Manchester
M1 6EU

Our Ref 2327808

21st July 2021

Dear Mr O'Donoghue,

I am writing in relation to your request for an internal review of your Freedom of Information request (FOI 2327808).

As a member of staff who was not involved in your Freedom of Information (FOI) request, I have undertaken an internal review of the GMCA's response to your request of the 3rd June 2021. In conducting my review, I have considered your original request, have had access to relevant material and have discussed your request with staff at GMCA who were involved in this matter.

Your request for an Internal Review

Your internal review request outlined the following:

Please pass this on to the person who conducts Freedom of Information reviews.

I would like to request an internal review of your decision to rely upon Section 36(2)(b)(i) and Section 36(2)(c) in your decision to refuse my request ref: 2327808 "PWSecrets"

It is my true and honest belief that your opinions are not reasonable.

Our response

I have now had the opportunity to review the original handling of your request and the associated correspondence.

I have made an independent decision based on all the available evidence that is relevant to this request. I uphold the original exemptions of s36(2)(b)(i) - disclosure of the information would be likely to prejudice the ability to give free and frank advice and s36(2)(c) would be likely to prejudice the ability of the authority in the conduct of public affairs, for the reasons set out in the initial response, which remain sound.

GMCA, Churchgate House, 56 Oxford Street, Manchester, M1 6EU

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I have also reviewed the application of the public interest test. I do not consider that there have been any notable developments since the original response. The Chief Constable remains in the early weeks of his term of office and needs to be afforded the time to determine, in consultation with the PCC, the correct strategy for the delivery of reform.

The assessment takes all relevant factors into account and the balance is in favour of withholding the information requested.

I am therefore satisfied that the response on 3rd June 2020 was, at that moment in time, fair, accurate and comprehensive and the opinion satisfied the parameters of reasonableness. I do not uphold your complaint in this regard.

I hope that this internal review addresses your concerns. However if you are unhappy with the outcome of this internal review, you are entitled to complain to the Information Commissioner. To do so, contact:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
www.ico.gov.uk
Tel: 01625 545 745

Yours sincerely

Gwynne Williams
Deputy Monitoring Officer