

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

(by email only)

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

Our Ref 376876

20 July 2020

Dear ,

I am writing in relation to your request for an internal review of your Freedom of Information request (FOI 376876).

I would like to extend my apologies for the delay in you receiving this response. Unfortunately this delay is due to staff shortages and restructure within the organisation. Whilst this is no excuse, it may help to provide you with some explanation.

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 18 December 2019. In conducting my investigation, I have considered your original request and have discussed your request with staff at GMFRS who were involved in this matter.

Your request for an Internal Review

Your internal review request outlined the following:

'I am writing to request an internal review of Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service's handling of my FOI request 'The Cube, Bolton Incident Response'.

I would disagree a £128 cost for a report that contains a lot of information not requested by myself is "reasonably accessible". If a report was available consisting of just the information I requested I would consider the option. I don't see it reasonable to pay such a fee for information not requested.

GMFRS has previously released similar information under FOI requests without the need to purchase a full fire report, therefore contradicting this section 21 exception.'

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

BOLTON
BURY

MANCHESTER
OLDHAM

ROCHDALE
SALFORD

STOCKPORT
TAMESIDE

TRAFFORD
WIGAN

Our response

I have now had the opportunity to review the original handling of your request and the associated correspondence. My investigation reviewed our response to your request and considered whether we had applied the Section 21 exemption correctly.

In doing so I have looked at the quantity of information which was requested, not only from GMFRS systems but also from those of neighbouring Fire and Rescue Authorities who responded to this incident or provided cover at locations within Greater Manchester. The number of appliances involved both at the incident and to provide cover moves were significant. To further subdivide that information into '*Callsign, "home" station, time mobilised, station moved to, time arrived on station, Time stood down and if the appliance turned out to any calls while covering at the station*', would exceed the time allowed to respond to a FOI request without charge.

I am satisfied that the response of 18 December 2019 was, at that moment in time, fair, accurate and comprehensive. For the reasons listed above, I therefore agree with the original conclusion that the requested information is too much information to be released, and I concur that you would need to purchase a full fire report for this information. This is in line with Section 21 of the Act; that the information requested is reasonably accessible by other means.

I therefore 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

Dawn Docx
Deputy Chief Fire Officer