



B2022 Commonwealth Games
Operation Unity Freedom of Information
Publication Strategy



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Operation Unity Publication Strategy

Operation Background

The Commonwealth Games is an international multi-sport event held every four years, for athletes from the Commonwealth of Nations. The 2022 Games will be the events 22nd edition and will be held between Thursday 28th July and Monday 8th August 2022. Circa 19 sports, including Para events, will take place over 11 days of competition at 15 venues across the West Midlands (plus the Lee Valley VeloPark in London).

Circa 4,300 Athletes will take part in the Games and approximately 1.2 million spectator tickets will be available. Following a winning bid in 2017, the City of Birmingham will host the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

West Midlands Police are the responsible owner for the strategic command of security at the 2022 Commonwealth Games and will deliver this in partnership with the Organising Committee (OC) of the games. The police security operation for the games has been titled 'Operation Unity'.

The strategic intent of the Integrated Security Operation from a WMP perspective is to:

"To support all partners to deliver an integrated security operation that ensures a safe and secure environment to host a successful Commonwealth Games and related events.

West Midlands Police (WMP) will work with the Organising Committee (OC) to deliver core security responsibilities and the delivery of a safe and secure Commonwealth Games."

Aim of the CWG FoI Publication Strategy

This document sets out the process with regard to how information relating to the Operation Unity will be proactively published and the timescales involved. The document is a live document and is subject to version control. This document will be placed on the <https://birmingham2022.west-midlands.police.uk/> website and the Force's Intranet site where it can be accessed by staff, the media, partners and the wider public.



Freedom of Information Approach

The publication strategy will enable West Midlands Police to use, when appropriate, the exemption relating to information intended for future publication (section 22 FOIA).

Section 22 exempts information from disclosure which is intended for future publication, and may be engaged when there is an intention to publish the information requested at the time of receipt.

The identified benefits of engaging this exemption are that dealing with requests for certain data whilst Operation Unity is ongoing can be complex and resource intensive. Also, random piecemeal disclosures may in fact damage the planning and/ or delivery process and affect the strategic aims of the operation. This can manifest itself in many ways, and there will also be an appetite from the media to gain exclusive knowledge and data, via FOI.

The application of this exemption, under Section 22 of the FOI Act also allows a sterile period, prior to publication by WMP in accordance with the intended publication listed at <https://birmingham2022.west-midlands.police.uk/> . Where all the stakeholders are able to consult, this will ensure that the final publication document meets the full needs of the public and the authorities involved. This coordinated approach to publication mitigates any harm that may be caused by random incomplete information entering the public domain.

WMP intend to publish on dates which are at its discretion regarding information on selected costs, resources, and statistics relating to Operation Unity. The table in Appendix A is the information that WMP will look to publish. The WMP Commonwealth Games Planning Team will be standing down at the end of 2022 to transition back into the wider force. The Information provided will only be that which would be deemed suitable for release under FOIA legislation. Details of FOI legislation and exempt information types can be found here:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/contents>

If you would like further information regarding West Midlands Police Freedom of Information, please follow the link below.

<https://foi.west-midlands.police.uk/>

Data Protection Act (DPA)

In addition to FOI requests, a relevant Public Authority (PA) may also receive a request under subject access for personal information under the DPA. The main difference between this and FOI is that a release of personal information is not a release to the world in general. Although it is impossible to prevent what a data subject may do with their information, the information itself is also subject to a range of exclusions to disclosure, primarily law enforcement. As with FOI, the ultimate decision on disclosure will lie with the individual Data controller.



Appendix A – Operation Unity Information held by West Midlands Police due for Publication

The WMP Commonwealth Games Planning Team will be standing down at the end of 2022 to transition back into the wider force.

Type of Information	Relevant Information	Publication Strategy
Commercial Information	Procurement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contract Information • Tendering Approach / Route to Market 	October 2022
Financial Information	Financial Summary Funding	March 2023
Operational Statistics	Games Time Crime Data	October 2022
Resources	Operational Workforce Mix Police Planning Team	October 2022
Governance	Governance Diagram Terms of Reference Stakeholder Management	October 2022