

Date: 23/11/2023
Our ref: 01/FOI/23/011632/I

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/23/011632/I

I write in connection with your request for information dated 08/11/2023, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Revised from 01/FOI/23/011377/M

Would it be possible just to get overall vehicle thefts in 2022 by month and postcode?

Happy for this just to be month or postcode if it will take too long.

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to locate the requested information and I can confirm the information requested is held by GMP.

However, I am not obliged to supply the information as exemptions apply.

However, Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Greater Manchester Police, when refusing to provide such information (because this information is exempt) to provide you, the applicant, with a notice which: (a) states that fact, (b) specifies the exemption in question and (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

This request is exempt under **Section 22(1)(a) –Information intended for future publication**. GMP intend to publish data for vehicle theft on the GMP website. August 2019 – September 2023 is intended to be published by the end of November. October – Dec 2023 is then intended for publication the end of January 2024. All publications will be on the below link.

<https://www.gmp.police.uk/>

As the exemption used is a qualified exemption a public interest test (PIT) needs to be applied.

Factors Favouring Disclosure

Disclosure of the requested information at the present time would allow the public to have access to the information immediately, would enhance public knowledge of the subject and would promote the accountability and aid transparency of GMP.

Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

Reviewing and formatting the data at the present time, in response to a Freedom of Information request, would be a duplication of work and would involve a disproportionate use of GMP resources and would not be an economical use of public funds. Additionally, should the data from the upcoming report be released prematurely, there is the possibility that it may contain inaccuracies if it has not been subject to full scrutiny procedures.

Balancing Test

When balancing the Public Interest Test, we must consider whether the Public Interest is best served by the release of the information into the public domain immediately or by the withholding of the information. Arguments need to be weighed against each other. The most persuasive reason for disclosure is the facilitation of transparency of GMP, which needs to be weighed against the strongest negative reason, which, in this case, is the disproportionate use of GMP resources and an uneconomical use of public funds. Therefore, the stance at this time is that the requested data is exempt from disclosure in response to a Freedom of Information request due to its future official publication by GMP.

In accordance with the S17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice.