



Date: 23/11/2023
Our ref: 01/FOI/23/011583/Q

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/23/011583/Q

I write in connection with your request for information dated 31/10/2023, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

1. Please provide the number of recorded incidents of theft from vans/light commercial vehicles where the stolen item was listed as a tool, power tool or similar in each of the following financial years:

- a. 2018/19*
- b. 2019/20*
- c. 2020/21*
- d. 2021/22*
- e. 2022/23*

2. Please provide the estimated/recorded cost of tools/items stolen from vehicles listed in Question 1a-e in each of the financial years listed.

3. Please provide the number of vans stolen in each of the following financial years:

- a. 2018/19*
- b. 2019/20*
- c. 2020/21*
- d. 2021/22*
- e. 2022/23*

4. How many of these cases resulted in tools being 'recovered' or 'returned to owner'?

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, Greater Manchester Police (GMP) does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format. To provide the data requested would involve a manual search of all crimes in your requested time frame recorded under the following Home Office offence codes:

- 37/2 Aggravated Vehicle Taking
- 45 Theft from a Motor Vehicle
- 48 Theft or Unauthorised Taking of a Motor Vehicle

The results would then need to be manually reviewed to determine which related to vans or light commercial vehicles and the type of property stolen.

A search of our records show that over 118,000 crime records would have to be reviewed. At a very conservative estimate of 5 minutes to locate, retrieve and review each file it would take over 9,000 hours to ascertain the data required.

Therefore, to comply with the whole of your request the process would take over 18 hours' work which exceeds the appropriate limit of £450.00, the amount to which we are legally required to respond.

As per section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the cost of providing you with the information is therefore above the amount to which we are legally required to respond i.e. the cost of locating and retrieving the information exceeds the 'appropriate level' as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004.

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

GMP is obligated, pursuant to section 16(1) of the Act to provide you with advice and assistance on refining your request to bring compliance within the fees limit. In order for the force to keep this within the fees limit, the information that you are requesting will need to be reduced to a greatly reduced time period. The resulting response cannot be guaranteed at this point as it will be dependent upon the number of records that fall within the scope of any new request, as they would still have to be manually assessed.

Should you wish to refine and resubmit your request in line with the advice above please respond to freedomofinformation@gmp.police.uk