

Date: 4th June 2024
Our ref: FOI/24/012627/K

I write in connection with your request for information dated 14/05/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am requesting a breakdown of the number of fixed penalty notices issued by your police force to owners of vans for mobile phone use while driving, and the value of fines issued for these offenses. I am requesting figures for the period March 2022 – December 2023.

In particular, can you provide me with:

- 1. The total number of fixed penalty notices issued by your police force to owners of vans for mobile phone use while driving, from March 2022-December 2022.***
- 2. The total value of fines issued as a result of these offenses, from March 2022-December 2022.***
- 3. The total number of fixed penalty notices issued by your police force to owners of vans for mobile phone use while driving, from January 2023-December 2023.***
- 4. The total value of fines issued as a result of these offenses, from January 2023-December 2023.***

If you can identify any way that my request could be refined to improve the request, I would be grateful for any assistance.

Result of Searches

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

However, GMP does not hold the information that you have requested for questions 1 and 3 in an easily retrievable format. GMP do not categories offences by vehicle type so we cannot search 'Vans'. To provide a response we would need to manually review all fixed penalty notices and the make and models of vehicles to determine if the vehicle is a van. A search of GMPs records shows a total of 6,069 fixed penalty notices for the time period requested. At a very conservative estimate of 5 minutes per record would take this request to in excess of 505 hours to ascertain the data required.

Therefore as per section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the cost of providing you with the information is 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 much shorter time period or a reduction in the volume of questions asked. 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

Response to the remaining questions

Question 2 – Fines are imposed by the courts and therefore you will need to contact HMCTS for this data.

Question 4 - Fines are imposed by the courts and therefore you will need to contact HMCTS for this data.