

Date: 3rd June 2024
Our ref: FOI/24/012664/P

I write in connection with your request for information dated 21/05/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

"How many incidents of heritage crime have been reported to your force in the following calendar years: 2023, 2022 and 2021"

Definition (Historic England):

Heritage crime is any offence which harms the value of heritage assets and their settings.

Some heritage assets are protected by specific legislation to prevent harm caused by damage or unlicensed alteration.

However, other crimes such as theft, criminal damage, arson and anti-social behaviour offences can also damage and harm heritage assets, and interfere with the public's enjoyment and knowledge of their heritage.

Heritage assets are sites which are considered to have a value to the heritage of England and include:

- ***Listed buildings***
- ***Scheduled monuments***
- ***World Heritage Sites***
- ***Protected marine wreck sites***
- ***Conservation areas***
- ***Registered parks and gardens***
- ***Registered battlefields***
- ***Protected military remains of aircraft and vessels of historic interest***
- ***Undesignated but acknowledged heritage buildings and sites.***

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 in an easily retrievable format. We don't have a way to identify the locations requested in our system and therefore a manual review will need to be conducted of all theft, arson, criminal damage, and anti-social behaviour records to determine the relevance to this request. A search of GMPs records shows 619,000 records which would require a manual review. As such it is anticipated to exceed the 18-hour limit.

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. For example, you could provide specific offences which you would like to include in our searches. 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