

Date: 17/06/2024
Our ref: 01/FOI/24/012783/V

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/012783/V

I write in connection with your request for information dated 12/06/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I would like to receive information around the number of vans which have been stolen, the number of times items have been stolen from vans and the types of vans most commonly being stolen or stolen from.

To clarify, I would like to receive the following information:

1. How many thefts have taken place from vans: A list of all thefts where the offence category is Theft from a Motor Vehicle and the vehicle type is Van or Panel Van. Please can you provide these details broken down by the make and model of each vehicle, as well as a breakdown of the category of items stolen (e.g. Tools, equipment, personal items etc). I would like this information to cover the following time periods:

- a. 1st January 2024 – 31st May 2024***
- b. 1st January 2023 – 31st December 2023***

2. How many vans have been stolen: A list of all thefts where the offence category is Theft of a Motor vehicle and the vehicle type is Van or Panel Van. Please can you provide these details broken down by the make and model of each vehicle. I would like this information to cover the following time periods:

- a. 1st January 2024 – 31st May 2024***
- b. 1st January 2023 – 31st December 2023***

3. If at all possible, for each category (e.g. Tools, equipment, personal items etc) could you provide the total value of the stolen items. I would like this information to cover the following time periods:

- a. 1st January 2024 – 31st May 2024***
- b. 1st January 2023 – 31st December 2023***

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, GMP does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format.

For GMP to be able to provide a response to this request it will require a substantial manual review of all the recorded crimes that relate to this request. There are approximately over 25k crimes recorded under 'theft from a motor vehicle', 'aggravated vehicle taking', and 'theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle', between 1st January 2023 and 31st May 2024. These would require a manual review to ascertain which of these were referencing vans. A further review will be needed to see if any records mentioned the items stolen and if values are listed for these. I can confidently say that this request would far exceed the 18hrs permitted to provide a response.

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 you are requesting will need revising with a much shorter timeframe and narrowing down the search criteria requested. With any request that requires a manual review there is always a chance of a request being refused under S12 due to the enormity of work that is usually needed to provide the data, therefore 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.