

Date: 17/06/2024
Our ref: 01/FOI/24/012727/N

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/012727/N

I write in connection with your request for information dated 31/05/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 I would like to request the following information:

- A. The number of shoplifting offences logged by the force between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023***
- B. The value of stock or money that was reported stolen in each shoplifting offence reported between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023***
- C. The neighbourhood or postcode of each business involved in a shoplifting offence logged by the force between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023***
- D. The month in which each shoplifting offence logged by the force between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023 occurred***

I would like you to provide the information by email in the format of a spreadsheet if possible with each offence on a row and a column for 'month' 'location' and 'value stolen' for each offence.

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 all 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. The review will be needed to see if we can provide the breakdown of the reported value of stock as per question B. Initial searches show over 18,000 records, and each one would need to be checked to be able to provide a response. With a

conservative estimate of around 5 minutes for each log, it would most certainly exceed the 18hrs permitted to provide the information.

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 the removal of B from this request. 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.

Although excess costs remove GMP's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, as a gesture of goodwill I have supplied some information relative to your request that was retrieved before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceed (see below information). I hope that this is of use to you, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fee's regulations for the remainder of your request.

A - 18,228 shoplifting crimes between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023