

Date: 24/10/2024
Our ref: 01/FOI/24/013399/V

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/013399/V

I write in connection with your request for information dated 05/10/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Please can you provide me with the number of shoplifting incidents at Boots (the chemist) reported to your force in:

-2024 (year to August)

-2023

-2022

- If possible, please break down incidents by calendar month.

- If possible, please provide details of goods stolen e.g hair products.

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.

A response cannot be provided for the breakdown of the stolen goods. A manual review will be required for each crime to ascertain which goods were stolen. Initial searches have returned 209 results. At a conservative estimate of 10 mins to review each one, it would take in the region of 34hrs to provide this data.

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 the "items stolen" part of this request. However, 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.

Caveats.

In July 2019, GMP implemented one of the largest IT infrastructure changes in UK policing. The systems are in continual development and the data provided for this request is what the systems currently hold.

This data contains crimes with a Home Office 5 Digit Code of '046/00' for shoplifting with a created date between 1st January 2022 and the 31st August 2024 where the location building or location description contains 'BOOTS', excluding cancelled crimes. Further information about cancelled crimes can be obtained from the Home Office Counting Rules.

Please note:

- The keyword methodology does not account for spelling errors.
- The appearance of the keywords in the text fields does not necessarily mean that records are relevant to this request.

Please note:

- The address recorded may not be where the crime happened e.g. where the crime happened in the street and the address was used as a reference point.
- There may be more than one variation of the same address.
- Some crimes do not have a beat code, which means that they cannot be mapped to other geographies e.g. districts.
- Some crimes have an incorrect beat code, which means that they are mapped to the wrong geographies.
- Some crimes do not have an address because e.g. the address has been recorded in a non-standard format or as map coordinates.

	2022	2023	2024
January	1	4	9
February	4	9	5
March	1	2	10
April	4	2	5
May	6	8	5
June	2	12	16
July	5	2	18
August	1	5	17
September	2	11	

October	8	16	
November	4	7	
December	2	6	

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