

Date: 11/09/2024
Our ref: 01/FOI/24/013219/C

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/013219/C

I write in connection with your request for information dated 04/09/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

- 1. What are the most commonly stolen tools from sheds in the UK (by local authority area).***
- 2. The total number of reports of stolen tools from sheds in the UK (by local authority area)***
- 3. What are the weather conditions of the days sheds have been broken into?***
- 4. The total number of shed break ins reported in the UK (by local authority area)***
- 5. The total number of tools stolen according to police definition (by local authority area).***
- 6. The number of convictions from tools stolen and shed break ins according to police definition (by local authority area).***

Result of Searches

GMP cannot confirm if it holds all the information that you have requested without conducting a thorough search on your behalf

GMP would be required to undertake a substantial review to see if we hold the information relating to your request. As there is no field search for shed theft, a review would need to be carried out for the offences recorded under theft to establish which related to theft from sheds. Within this review, we would also need to see if there are any mentions of tools being stolen. This review would then enable a trend to be formed of what common tools are stolen. All of this is only possible if the information is held which is why a manual review needs to be carried out. No timeframe was provided for this request so a snapshot search was taken for the last 6 months to see how many records will need checking and it brought back around 45,000. This averages out at around 7,500 a month and so this request could not be completed with the 18hrs timeframe allowed to do so.

Therefore, as per section 12(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the cost of searching for the information is above the amount to which we are legally required to respond i.e. the cost of locating 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.

In this instance, due to the specific requirement for tools and shed thefts requested and the number that would need reviewing on average per month, Greater Manchester Police will be unable able to provide advice for you to reduce the request in order for the force to keep this within the fees limit in accordance with Section 16(1), the duty to provide advice and assistance, of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Should you wish to refine and resubmit your request please respond to - freedomofinformation@gmp.police.uk.

Information Compliance & Records Management Unit, Information Management Branch, Greater Manchester Police Openshaw Complex, Lawton Street, Openshaw, Manchester, M11 2NS