



Date: 17/04/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/014449/R

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/014449/R

I write in connection with your request for information dated 20/03/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

*Hello, I work for Amazon UK in their Security and Loss Prevention Department.
I am working as part of a smaller team within Loss Prevention that are looking at combating fraudulent claims made to Amazon by customers/criminals.
We have found that customers/criminals provide crime report/incident numbers to Amazon customer services in order to make fraudulent claims about package thefts, we later find these have been false report/incident numbers that don't match the force area or sometime even the country where the theft/incident allegedly occurred.
Some customers/criminals even provide falsified print outs of crime reports to make their claim.*

Please can you provide a LIST of ALL TYPES of REFERENCE NUMBER Formats, currently being used by YOUR Police Force to Identify Case Files/Crime Reports and other areas of Record Keeping.

Could you also please provide details of the crime reporting system you use (Niche, Athena etc) along with a blank template of what a crime report print would look like, Amazon can then feed these into our database in order to identify area where reports are being made and identify false claims.

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, I am not obliged to provide all the information as exceptions apply.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires GMP, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you, the applicant, with a

notice which: (a) states that fact, (b) specifies the exemption in question and (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies. We will not provide a blank crime report as this is exempt from disclosure by virtue of the following exemption: **Section 31(1)(a)(b) – Law Enforcement.**

S31 – Law Enforcement: Harm

A Freedom of Information Act request is not a private transaction. Both the request itself and any information disclosed, are considered suitable for open publication. This is because under the Act, any information disclosed is released into the wider public domain, effectively to the world, not just to an individual.

Whilst not questioning the motives of the applicant, providing a blank copy of a crime report used by Greater Manchester Police would release to the world information that could be used to facilitate crime, which would be of intelligence value to criminals. For example, a blank crime report could be used by criminals to submit a fraudulent insurance claim.

To release the requested information would make it easier for those intent on committing crime to commit crime. It would also provide criminals with knowledge that would allow them to compose false crime reports for use in fraud and other crimes. With the information you have requested, criminals could design these to be indistinguishable from genuine crime reports from GMP. This would impact on the law enforcement capabilities of GMP in the prevention and detection of crime and the apprehension or prosecution of offenders as resources would be needed to investigate these crimes and apprehend the offenders.

Public Interest Test

Factors Favouring Disclosure

To disclose would show GMP's accountability in the use of public funds. It would also inform the public about how crimes are recorded.

Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

Conversely to the factors in favour of disclosure, to publicly release this information would impact on the law enforcement capabilities of GMP. It would give those intent on committing crime valuable knowledge of how to forge crime reports, which would give criminals valuable information to enable them to commit crime, impacting GMP's ability to prevent and detect crime and apprehend or prosecute offenders.

Any disclosure of information which would provide valuable knowledge to criminals, and as a result lead to more crime being committed would increase the risk to public safety, which is not in the public interest.

Balancing Test

Law enforcement is of paramount importance and GMP will not disclose information if to do so would undermine its purpose and facilitate further crime to be committed. Whilst there is a public interest in the transparency of using public money appropriately, there is a very strong public interest in preventing crime and not causing an increased demand on policing

resources. Any disclosure which hinders our capability and assists criminals cannot be in the public interest.

It is for these reasons that I have determined that the balance test favours non-disclosure of the requested information.

The remainder of your request is not exempt and is answered as follows:

GMP reference numbers take the format of three letters, followed by a forward slash, two numbers then two letters, followed by a forward slash, then seven numbers, followed by a forward slash, then two numbers to signify the year. For example, XXX/00XX/0000000/25.

GMP use the Policeworks crime recording system.