

Date: 07/04/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/014545/Q

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/014545/Q

I write in connection with your request for information dated 04/04/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am submitting a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding the investigation and case outcomes of reported tool theft incidents within your police force's jurisdiction.

I would be grateful if you could provide the following information for each of the past three calendar years: 2022, 2023, and 2024. If possible, please complete the attached Excel form. If now, please respond to the questions as listed below:

1. Total Number of Tool Theft Cases

- *How many reports of tool theft have been recorded annually in your jurisdiction?*
- *Of these, how many involved thefts from vehicles, homes, and commercial premises?*

2. Investigation & Case Closure Rates

- *What is the average length of time spent investigating each reported tool theft case before it is closed?*

- *How many tool theft cases were closed within the following timeframes:*

- o *24 hours*
- o *48 hours*
- o *One week*
- o *One month*

- *How many cases remain open beyond one month?*

3. Arrests, Charges, and Convictions

- *How many tool theft cases resulted in an arrest each year?*
- *How many led to formal charges?*
- *How many resulted in a conviction?*

4. Recovery of Stolen Tools

- *How many cases resulted in the recovery of stolen tools?*
- *What percentage of recovered tools were returned to their original owners?*

5. Police Resources & Prioritisation

- ***How many officers (FTE) are assigned to investigate tool theft cases?***
- ***Are tool theft cases given a specific priority level compared to other property crimes?***

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 thefts for the time periods requested. Our systems do not have a searchable field to be able to easily determine what items have been stolen/taken and so a review would be the only way to extract this information. For the time frame you have requested, there have been over 289,000 records logged and so to review each one would far exceed the 18hr permitted to provide this information.

If one part of the request engages a Section 12 response, the whole request will engage a Section 12 response. The reason being is locating, retrieving and extracting any further information would only add to the already exceeded time obligations and so no other searches have been completed at this stage.

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 attempt to keep this within the fees limit, the information you are requesting will need revising with a much shorter time frame and a reduction in the volume of information required. 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.