



Date: 21/08/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/015270/M

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/015270/M

I write in connection with your request for information dated 21/08/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

1. *The total number of counterfeit football shirts seized by your force each year from 2019 to the most recent year available.*
2. *(If readily available) The estimated total value (£) of these seized shirts for each year.*
3. *The number of arrests each year relating to the sale or distribution of counterfeit football shirts, or counterfeit football merchandise, if shirts are not recorded separately.*

For consistency:

- *Please provide figures for full calendar years (Jan–Dec) where possible. If only financial year data is available, please specify this.*
- *If your systems do not separately record “football shirts,” please confirm this and provide data for the broader category of counterfeit sportswear instead.*
- *Please confirm whether seizure counts represent individual shirts or seizure incidents/operations, and whether value estimates are based on retail or street value.*

*If any information is not held, please indicate this rather than fully refusing the request.
I prefer the information in an electronic format (Excel or CSV).
Thank you for your time and assistance.*

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to locate information relevant to your request. I can confirm that the information you have requested is held by GMP.

However, GMP does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format. To provide the data requested in question 3 would involve a manual search of all arrests for fraud and miscellaneous offences, as there is no specific arrest category for counterfeit football shirts.

A search of our custody records shows that there are over 10,000 records that would have to be manually reviewed. At a very conservative estimate of 5 minutes to locate, retrieve and review each file it would take over 800 hours to ascertain the data required.

Therefore, to comply with the whole of your request the process would take over 18 hours' work which exceeds the appropriate limit of £450.00, the amount to which we are legally required to respond.

As per section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the cost of providing you with the information is therefore 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 that you are requesting will need to be reduced to a greatly reduced time period. 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