

Date: 19/08/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/015331/I

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/015331/I

I write in connection with your request for information dated 13/08/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide the latest statistics you hold on thefts of watches valued at £3,000 or more within your force area. Please include any notifiable offence types in which a qualifying watch was recorded as stolen (for example: theft from person, robbery, burglary, vehicle crime, etc.), where this can be filtered from your crime recording system.

1) Counts by time period

- **Total number of offences meeting the above criteria for:**
 - o 01/01/2022–31/12/2022
 - o 01/01/2023–31/12/2023
 - o 01/01/2024–31/12/2024
 - o 01/01/2025–31/07/2025 (part year)

2) Geographic breakdown

For the same periods, a breakdown by your standard local geography (e.g., city, borough/district, LPA, or command unit). Please state which geography you are using.

3) Brand / model

For the same periods, where recorded, the most commonly stolen watch brands and models (e.g., Rolex Daytona, Omega Speedmaster, Audemars Piguet Royal Oak), with counts. If model isn't consistently recorded, brand alone is fine.

4) Recoveries

For the same periods, the number of qualifying watches recovered (and, if recorded, how many were returned to owners).

5) Offence type (if readily available)

A breakdown by offence classification (e.g., robbery, theft from person, burglary), with counts for each period.

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.

We have completed a search for theft offences that took place between 01/01/2022 and 31/07/2025 and there are 334,591, of which 4,179 mention '**watch**' in either the crime description or crime MO description. To review each of these would far exceed the limitations set in the FOIA to respond.

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 reduced time frame. 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.