

Date: 15th August 2025
Our ref: FOI/25/015299/Z

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

I am writing to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please provide data on all recorded theft offences between 1 January 2020 and the most recent available month in 2025 where the Modus Operandi (MO), item description, or any other searchable field contains the word “tool” or “tools”.

For each calendar year in this period, please provide:

- 1. The total number of such offences recorded.***
- 2. The offence type (e.g. burglary, theft from a vehicle, other theft).***
- 3. The broad location of the offence (e.g. town, city, or first half of postcode).***
- 4. The recorded outcome (e.g. charge, arrest, no suspect identified).***
- 5. If available, the total estimated value of tools reported stolen.***

I would prefer the information to be provided in a spreadsheet format (e.g. CSV or Excel) if possible.

If this request exceeds the cost limit, please provide any data available within the limit and advise how the scope could be refined.

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 a response to question 5 would require a manual review of all crimes to determine the value of the item stolen. Over 13,000 crimes would require a manual review and as such, it is anticipated it would take in excess of 18 hours to provide the requested information.

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.

However, in accordance with Section 16(1) – the duty to provide advice and assistance – of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, Greater Manchester Police will be unable able to provide advice for you to reduce question 5 of this request in order for the force to keep this within the fees limit.

Should you wish to refine and resubmit your request in line with the advice above please respond to freedomofinformation@gmp.police.uk

Although excess costs remove GMP's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, as a gesture of goodwill I have supplied some information relative to your request that was retrieved before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceed (see below information). I hope that this is of use to you, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

Caveats:

In July 2019, GMP implemented one of the largest IT infrastructure changes in UK policing. The systems are in continual development and the data provided for this request is what the systems currently hold.

This data contains crimes with a created date between 01/01/2020 and 31/07/2025 where crime tree level two is 'theft offences' and the crime MO or crime description contain 'tool' or 'tools', excluding cancelled crimes and crimes classified as fraud. Further information about cancelled crimes can be obtained from the Home Office Counting Rules. Details regarding fraud crime can be obtained by contacting the NFIB.

Offence	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
All other theft offences	215	213	266	441	311	171
Bicycle theft	30	29	35	49	41	21
Business and community burglary	304	260	294	291	286	146
Residential burglary	510	498	488	480	443	246
Shoplifting	51	65	86	96	95	42

Theft from the person	5	3	5	6	2	1
Vehicle offences	954	1139	1136	1381	1132	774

District	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Bolton	213	222	189	212	186	123
Bury	125	98	104	154	144	80
CoM Central	179	184	207	275	216	126
CoM North	151	148	185	226	172	86
CoM South	98	99	128	163	149	78
Manchester Airport	4	2	7	8	4	4
Oldham	241	264	257	273	209	150
Rochdale	212	254	237	236	260	139
Salford	209	174	196	269	171	122
Stockport	158	259	299	260	246	149
Tameside	154	146	133	170	175	119
Trafford	144	136	166	207	159	89
Unknown	0	2	0	1	0	1
Wigan	181	219	202	290	219	135

Outcome	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Caution - Adults	1	2	1	3	2	1
Caution - Youths	1	0	0	0	1	0
Charged/Summonsed	40	37	57	81	87	31
Charged/Summonsed Alternative Offence	3	9	9	7	9	5
Community Resolution	3	9	2	5	3	6
Diversory, Educational, Intervention complete. Further action not in public interest.	0	0	1	0	0	0
Evidential Difficulties Victim Based – Named suspect not identified: The crime is confirmed but the victim either declines/ or is unable to support further police investigation to identify the offender.	100	141	212	125	94	31
Formal action against the offender is not in the public interest (Police)	1	0	0	0	0	0
Investigation Complete: No suspect identified. Crime investigated as	1814	1910	1873	2357	1939	1188

far as reasonably possible –Case closed pending further investigative opportunities becoming available						
Missing Value	11	2	5	0	11	56
Named Suspect identified: evidential difficulties prevent further action; victim does not support (or has withdrawn support from) police action.	23	27	41	33	46	17
Named Suspect identified: victim supports police action but evidential difficulties prevent further action.	55	62	97	120	104	62
Named Suspect Identified; Prosecution not in the public interest	13	6	5	1	2	1
Prosecution not in the public interest (CPS) (all offences)	0	0	2	0	0	0
Prosecution prevented – Named suspect identified but is too ill (physical or mental health) to prosecute	0	0	0	0	1	0
Prosecution time limit expired: Suspect identified but prosecution time limit has expired.	2	1	0	1	0	0
Taken Into Consideration	2	1	4	11	11	3
The offender has died (all offences)	0	0	1	0	0	0