



Date: 02/12/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/015775/G

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/015775/G

I write in connection with your request for information dated 04/11/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I would like to submit an FOI request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding reports of parcel theft from doorsteps/porches, also known as porch piracy.

Please would you provide the following information for the period of January 2023 – to date:

- *The total number of reports of stolen parcels or packages from residential addresses.*
- *The total estimated value of items reported stolen in each incident.*
- *The total estimated value of items reported stolen in each year.*
- *The total number of cases of parcel theft where the offender(s) were prosecuted.*

If possible, can the above data be organised by year, month and region?

Please find an example of how previous FOI requests to the police, for the same data, has been used in the past: <https://www.retail-insight-network.com/news/porch-pirate-crime-wave-costs-uk-retailers-376m/>

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. There is no specific offence of Parcel Theft. To provide the data requested would

involve a manual search of all theft crimes to see if the item stolen was a parcel and whether it was stolen from a doorstep or porch.

A search of our crime records show that there were 49,940 crimes recorded under Home Office offence code 049/10 – Theft If Not Classified Elsewhere. At a very conservative estimate of 5 minutes to locate, retrieve and review each file it would take approximately 4,000 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.