



Date: 09/12/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/015899/R

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/015899/R

I write in connection with your request for information dated 21/11/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

On behalf of Sky News, I'd like to request the following information through the Freedom of Information Act please.

Would you be able to tell me:

- How many people were caught using number plate blockers or number plates with reflective coatings from 1 January 2025 to 21 November 2025*
- How many people were caught using number plate blockers or number plates with reflective coatings in 2024*
- How many people were caught using number plates with non-standard characters, incorrect font, spacing or sizing from 1 January 2025 to 21 November 2025.*
- How many people were caught using number plates with non-standard characters, incorrect font, spacing or sizing in 2024.*

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. The information you are requesting does not relate to separate specific offences. All the actions you mention would be covered by the same overarching offences. To provide the data requested would involve a manual search of all records for the below offences to see if the information is relevant to your request.

- Drive a vehicle when the registration mark fails to conform with regulations
- Keep a vehicle when registration mark fails to conform with the regulations
- Drive a vehicle with registration mark obscured / indistinguishable

A search of our records shows that there are 4,868 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 405 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