



Date: 11/02/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/013992/B

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/013992/B

I write in connection with your request for information dated 16/01/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

With tradespeople across the UK affected by tool theft I am looking to find:

1. *The number of tool marking events that your police force has supported in the following calendar years: 2024 and 2023?*
2. *(a) How many suspected stolen tools has your police force seized and/or catalogued in the following calendar years: 2024 and 2023?*
(b) How many of these tools has your police force manage to reunite with their owners in the following calendar years: 2024 and 2023
2. *How many arrests has your police force made for offences relating tool theft in the following calendar years: 2024 and 2023?*

NB:

The reference to "tools" above relates to those commonly used by tradespeople. This includes, but is not limited to, drills and impact drivers, saws, angle grinders, multi-tools, nail guns, generators, disc cutters, garden power tools, and similar equipment.

Clarification sought - "Tool Marking events"

I'm referring to events organized by the police, either independently or in collaboration with third parties, where tradespeople can bring their tools to be marked (e.g., using forensic marking solution). These initiatives aim to help protect tools against theft by providing a way to identify them if recovered by the police.

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.

Greater Manchester Police (GMP) does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format. To provide the data requested would involve a manual search of all theft crime reports to see if they relate to the theft of tools.

A search of our records shows that there would be 187,000 crime reports 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 15,500 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