



Date: 12/03/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/014212/Y

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/014212/Y

I write in connection with your request for information dated 12/02/2024, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am writing under the FOI Act to request records of high-value (over £500 in value) retail thefts involving Lego products since January 2019.

More specifically:

- 1. The number of recorded shoplifting and burglary offences where "Lego" is explicitly mentioned in police reports, broken down by year and location.*
- 2. Which of these cases led to a charge or conviction.*
- 3. Any recorded cases where multiple thefts of Lego were linked to the same suspect or group, and whether these were classified as part of an organised crime operation.*
- 4. A breakdown of locations where Lego thefts were reported, specifying whether they occurred in:*
 - a. Major retailers (e.g., supermarkets, toy chains)*
 - b. Independent toy stores*
 - c. Residential burglaries*
 - d. Warehouses or storage facilities*
- 5. A monthly breakdown of Lego-related thefts to assess seasonal trends in theft occurrences.*
- 6. The total estimated value of stolen Lego items in recorded incidents, where available.*

If my request is denied in whole or in part, please justify all exemptions by reference to the Act. Please let me know you have received this email.

I would prefer to receive the information in Excel format if it contains a lot of numbers and data, or as a PDF file if it does not.

If there are any problems, or you need further information, please get in touch.

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 the data requested in questions 3 and 6 would involve a manual search of all theft crime records where the keyword "lego" appears, to see if they are relevant to your request.

A search of our crime records shows that there are 237 crimes 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 approximately 20 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