



Date: 14/03/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/014242/E

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/014242/E

I write in connection with your request for information dated 18/02/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act. In order to assist you with this request, I am outlining my query as specifically as possible.

Under the Freedom of Information Act please can I request the following information broken down by the following calendar years: 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024

- 1) How many investigations have been launched into businesses for breaches of Section 22 of the Theft Act 1968. I.e. how many businesses investigated for "handling stolen goods"*
- 2) Of those how many resulted in a charge or summons.*

I would be interested in any information held by your organisation regarding my request. I understand that I do not have to specify particular files or documents and that it is the department's responsibility to provide the information I require. If you need further clarification, please contact me by email.

If my request is denied in whole or in part, I ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specify exemptions of the act. I will also expect you to release all non-exempt material.

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.

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 crimes recorded under Home Office Code 054/01 Receiving stolen goods and 054/02 Undertaking or assisting in the retention, removal, disposal, or realisation of stolen goods or arranging to do so. We do not have a field on our crime recording system that would enable to identify if the offender or suspect is a business, so the only way to be able to find this information out would be to conduct a manual review of each record.

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