

Date: 28/02/2025

Our ref: 01/FOI/25/014326/H

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/014326/H

I write in connection with your request for information dated 28/02/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Under the FOI Act 2000, please provide me with the number of sheep reported stolen to the force, broken down into the following years: 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024.

If there is time, please provide the outcome of each reported offence.

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to locate the requested information and I can confirm the information requested is held by GMP.

However, GMP does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format.

For GMP to be able to provide a response to this request it will require a substantial manual review of all the recorded "thefts" to identify how many of these thefts are to do with "Sheep". Information about individual theft items for example dogs, cars, jewellery etc are not held in a central location, and so a review would be needed for all these instances including sheep. There were approximately 469,000 'theft offences' between 2020-2024 that would need to be reviewed to determine if 'Sheep was something that was taken. On this basis we most certainly would not be able to complete this request.

Therefore, as per Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the cost of providing you with the information is 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 attempt to keep

this within the fees limit, the information you are requesting will need revising with a shorter time frame. With any request that requires a manual review there is always a chance of a request being refused under S12 due to the enormity of work that is usually needed to provide the data, therefore 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.