

Date: 12/03/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/014381/O

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/014381/O

I write in connection with your request for information dated 10/03/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request data on car theft investigations within your police force's jurisdiction. Specifically, I'd like details on:

- ***The total number of reported car thefts in your jurisdiction for each of the last three calendar years (2021, 2022, and 2023).***
 - ***The number of those cases that resulted in a suspect being charged or otherwise identified as the offender.***
 - ***The number of those cases that remain unsolved***
- If possible, please provide this information in a year-by-year breakdown.***

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 would require a substantial manual review of all the recorded thefts for the time periods requested. Our systems do not have a searchable field to be able to easily determine what items have been stolen/taken and in this case specifically "cars" and so a review would be the only way to extract this information. For the time frame you have requested, there have been over 24k crimes recorded under offences that relate to 'vehicle theft' so to review each one would far exceed the 18hr permitted to provide this information.

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.

If one part of the request engages a Section 12 response, the whole request will engage a Section 12 response. The reason being is locating, retrieving and extracting any further information would only add to the already exceeded time obligations and so no other searches have been completed at this stage.

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 much shorter time frame. However, 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.