

Date: 27/03/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/014459/T

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/014459/T

I write in connection with your request for information dated 21/03/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

***Please treat this as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.
I am requesting data held by your police force on thefts specifically relating to building materials stolen from vans.***

Please provide the following information:

The number of recorded thefts involving building materials stolen being stolen for each of the last 3 calendar years (2022–2024), broken down by year.

If available, please also include:

The type or description of materials stolen (e.g. timber, cement, bricks, plasterboard, etc.)

The location of where the materials were stolen from such as vans, construction sites, driveways etc.

The number of arrests and/or charges made in connection with these incidents.

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 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 so a review would be the only way to extract this information. For the time frame you have requested, there has been 289k crimes recorded under 'theft offences' and 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.

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 reduced 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.