

Date: 24/01/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/014033/T

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/014033/T

I write in connection with your request for information dated 22/01/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

1. ***Total number of pet thefts in 2019 (January-December)***
2. ***Total number of pet thefts in 2024 (January-December)***
3. ***Pet thefts in 2024 (January-December) broken down by type of animal (if possible please use these categories: dogs, cats, livestock, birds, other mammals (e.g rabbits, hamsters) horses, fish, reptiles)***

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 theft offences for the requested years. Due to how our systems record theft information we are unable to determine the type of theft without carrying out this review. It will be needed to know if the theft that took place was that of a pet. The manual review will also allow for us to determine the type of animal that was stolen. In 2019 there was over 29,000 theft reports and in 2024 there was over 25,000. To carry out a manual review on these results would far exceed the time limits permitted.

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.

In this instance, Greater Manchester Police will be unable to provide advice for you to reduce the request in order for the force to keep this within the fees limit in accordance with Section 16(1), the duty to provide advice and assistance, of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.