



Date: 30/06/2025  
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/014878/I

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/014878/I**

I write in connection with your request for information dated 03/06/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

*We're looking to conduct FOI requests with Police Constabularies across the UK around van theft rates over the past 5 years, the average cost of the theft, most commonly stolen item categories and most commonly broken into van models. Can we please request information on, if available:*

*Total number of van thefts recorded in the last five years in the area (broken down by year)  
The average cost of the theft over the past five years in the area (broken down by year)  
The most commonly stolen item categories over the past five years (broken down by year)  
The most commonly broken into van models in the past five years (broken down by years).  
I wanted to ask if you think the above data would be possible within the statutory timescale of 20 working days before we set the requests live?  
Any feedback you can share would be super helpful.*

**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.

However, GMP do 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 Offence Code 048/01 – Theft of a Motor Vehicle. There is no specific offence relating to theft of vans, so the only way to accurately answer your question would be to manually review all Theft of Motor Vehicle crimes to see which relate to vans.

A search of our crime records shows that there are over 37,000 crimes that would have to be reviewed. At a very conservative estimate of 5 minutes to locate, retrieve and review each file it would take over 3,000 hours to ascertain the data required.

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](mailto:freedomofinformation@gmp.police.uk)