

Date: 23/07/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/015075/L

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/015075/L

I write in connection with your request for information dated 08/07/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

1. Within the last 5 years, how many 'big cat' sightings have been recorded within GMP districts (This would exclude anything regarding 'domestic-size' cats, with the report potentially mentioning either panther/black leopard, lynx or puma/mountain lion-type sightings/encounters)

- **Broken down by month and location if possible.**
- **Could the approx. location of each sighting please be disclosed,**
- **as well as whether an officer followed-up, in-person, on the report –**
- **and if there was any outcome to the animal**

Please can the keywords be:

- **panther/black leopard**
- **lynx**
- **puma/mountain lion**
- **Big cat**
- **Large black animal**
- **Large black cat**
- **Large tan cat**
- **Large tan animal**
- **Large cat Wounded livestock**

And please can we have it broken down by year

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 crimes that relate to this request. A search has been carried out using the chosen keywords above and this has revealed over 1000 results, of which each would need to be checked to ensure they fit the request. For example, it has revealed words linked to lynx the deodorant, ford puma and these are not connected. To review all of these at a rate of 5mins per each one would take around 83hrs and so cannot be completed.

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 to fewer keywords and a smaller 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.