

Date: 5th June 2025
Our ref: FOI/25/014849/D

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: FOI/25/014849/D

I write in connection with your request for information dated 29/05/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am writing to request the following information under the Freedom of Information act.

- 1. From 2019 to the most recent data available, how many crimes were logged by your police force where a bow or crossbow was recorded as being an element in the offence? Please provide a yearly breakdown in a table (Note: I would hope that this could be achieved by a computer search on the MO of crimes for the phrases "bow", "bow and arrow", "crossbow", "cross bow" and "cross-bow").**
- 2. From 2019 to the most recent data available, how many crimes were logged by your police force where an air rifle, airsoft gun or bb gun was recorded as being an element in the offence? Please provide a yearly breakdown in a table (Note: I would hope that this could be achieved by a computer search on the MO of crimes for the phrases "BB Gun", "BB Pistol", "BB Rifle", "Airsoft gun", "Airsoft pistol", "air rifle", "air pistol", "air gun", "pellet rifle", "pellet pistol" and "pellet gun").**
- 3. Please provide me with a table showing a breakdown of the crimes from Question 1 that are 'linked' to bows or crossbows by its mention in the MO for 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025. Please provide this broken down by Home Office offence group and subgroup.**
- 4. Please provide me with a table showing a breakdown of the crimes from Question 2 that are 'linked' to air rifles, airsoft guns or bb guns by their mention in the MO for 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025. Please provide this broken down by Home Office offence group and subgroup.**

If any part of my request would trigger an exemption, I would seek advice and assistance under section 16 of the FOI Act to refine or clarify.

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.

Caveats:

In July 2019, GMP implemented one of the largest IT infrastructure changes in UK policing. The systems are in continual development and the data provided for this request is what the systems currently hold.

- This data contains crimes with a created date between 1st January 2019 and 30th April 2025 where the crime description or crime MO description contains one of the following, excluding cancelled crimes and crimes classified as fraud. Further information about cancelled crimes can be obtained from the Home Office Counting Rules. Details regarding fraud crime can be obtained by contacting the NFIB.
 - BB gun
 - BB pistol
 - BB rifle
 - Airsoft gun
 - Airsoft pistol
 - Air rifle
 - Air pistol
 - Air gun
 - Pellet rifle
 - Pellet pistol
 - Pellet gun
 - Bow
 - Bow and arrow
 - Crossbow
 - Cross-bow
 - Cross bow
- Please note:
- The keyword methodology does not account for spelling errors.
- The appearance of the keywords in the text fields does not necessarily mean that records are relevant to this request.
- Some offences may only be available for part of this time period i.e. they may have started or stopped being used during this period.

Due to low numbers returned per specific offence the data has been provided in 'crime latest classification Crime Tree Level Four' category as by providing all the information split by Home Office Offence group and Subcategory as you have requested would significantly increase the likelihood of identifying the individual(s) concerned, and as such the exemption under S40(2) – Personal Information, would be engaged and result in information being refused.

Due to low numbers still being returned, some of the totals have been replaced with X, as by providing all this information would significantly increase the likelihood of identifying the individual(s) concerned, and as such the exemption under S40(2) – Personal Information, would be engaged and result in information being refused. By replacing this data in this way, it can be provided in its entirety.

Cross-Bow Flag 'Y'							
Offence	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
All other theft offences	47	31	25	30	58	54	17
Bicycle Theft	X	-	-	X	5	X	X
Business and community burglary	12	26	15	14	16	13	X
Criminal damage and arson offences	100	83	86	102	100	116	46
Homicide	-	-	X	-	-	X	-
Miscellaneous crimes against society	5	8	X	8	13	11	5
Other sexual offences	7	8	22	15	15	15	X
Possession of drugs	X	X	X	X	5	8	X
Possession of weapon offences	9	18	9	24	22	31	X
Public order offences	43	40	82	61	94	50	21
Rape	9	7	9	9	12	8	X
Residential burglary	27	28	32	18	24	31	6
Robbery of business property	8	6	X	X	X	6	X
Robbery of personal property	41	29	21	25	27	26	10
Shoplifting	34	16	21	14	41	49	22
Stalking and harassment	17	15	39	43	98	66	28
Theft from the person	10	X	5	10	10	11	X
Trafficking of drugs	X	6	X	10	18	10	-
Vehicle offences	16	16	18	22	28	30	X
Violence with injury	446	372	419	421	399	397	116
Violence without injury	288	257	312	338	364	329	113

Air Rifle Flag 'Y'							
Offence	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
All other theft offences	9	5	X	X	X	7	X
Bicycle Theft	-	-	-	-	X	-	X

Business and community burglary	X	-	X	X	X	X	X
Criminal damage and arson offences	87	84	102	103	114	91	31
Miscellaneous crimes against society	-	X	X	X	X	X	X
Other sexual offences	X	X	-	X	X	-	-
Possession of drugs	X	X	-	X	X	X	X
Possession of weapon offences	67	61	90	114	83	61	25
Public order offences	21	18	47	45	55	14	X
Rape	X	-	-	X	X	-	-
Residential burglary	6	12	8	7	8	X	X
Robbery of business property	X	X	-	-	-	X	-
Robbery of personal property	7	5	X	7	5	X	X
Shoplifting	X	X	X	-	X	X	-
Stalking and harassment	X	8	21	25	31	24	8
Theft from the person	-	-	X	X	-	-	-
Trafficking of drugs	X	X	X	X	-	-	-
Vehicle offences	-	X	-	X	X	X	-
Violence with injury	48	43	36	62	102	44	8
Violence without injury	44	30	54	63	176	69	22