

Date: 20th May 2025
Our ref: FOI/25/014779/G

I write in connection with your request for information dated 16/05/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I hope you are well. Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request the following information, please:

i) The total number of cases of livestock theft reported in the calendar years 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024.

ii) The total number of livestock theft reported between 01.01.25 - 15.05.25

iii) Of the above cases, please could you break it down by theft of sheep, cows, pigs, horses, chicken, donkey, goats. If this is not possible, alternatively could you provide the number of these theft cases where a keyword search of any of the key words 'sheep, cows, pigs, horses, chicken, donkey, goats' is included.

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 does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format.

There is no specific offence for 'livestock theft'. To provide a response would require a manual review of all theft offences to determine the type of property stolen during the crime. From an initial search over 585,000 theft offences would need to be manually reviewed. At a very conservative estimate of 5 minutes per record would take this request to in excess of 48,750 hours to ascertain the data required.

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.

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

Should you wish to refine and resubmit your request in line with the advice above please respond to freedomofinformation@gmp.police.uk