

Date: 08/05/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/014610/I

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/014610/I

I write in connection with your request for information dated 16/04/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I would like to submit a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) regarding foraging or picking of plants. Please provide the relevant information for the period between 1 April 2022 and the most recent date for which data is available.

Please could you provide the following:

The number of reports made to your force about foraging or picking of plants. Please could you provide the following breakdown:

- a. A yearly breakdown of the number of reports made about foraging or picking of plants.*
- b. The approximate location (for example: name of the park or road) at which the foraging or picking of plants allegedly took place.*
- c. Whether the report of foraging or picking of plants led to a charge.*
- d. The names of the offences under which these charges were made.*
- e. The number of these charges which proceeded to conviction.*

If you need to carry out a key terms search to locate these records, please include the terms "foraged", "foraging", "wild food", "forager", "wild ingredients". If you would document these cases in another way, please include these results as per the spirit of my request.

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 April 2022 and 15th April 2025, under Home Office offences 099/03, 099/17, 099/18, or 099/48, 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.
- We are aware of various system issues affecting committed at locations for new and migrated crimes (see below for details). These issues mean that data for a specific location may include crimes that did not happen in that location and/or exclude crimes that did.
 - Some crimes do not have a beat code, which means that they cannot be mapped to other geographies e.g. districts.
 - Some crimes have an incorrect beat code, which means that they are mapped to the wrong geographies.
 - Some crimes do not have an address because e.g. the address has been recorded in a non-standard format or as map coordinates.

Due to low results, locations have not been provided as by providing all this information 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. By excluding the data, it can be provided in its entirety.

Dummy Crime Reference	Crime Created Year	Home Office 5 Digit Code	Home Office Offence Level	Crime Latest Outcome : GMP Outcome Description
1	2025	099/17	Triable-either-way offences	Decision Pending (98)
2	2025	099/48	Carrying out or causing to permit to be carried out, any operation likely to damage part of an area of special scientific interest subject to notification by Nature Conservancy Council	Suspect Identified- Insufficient Evidence Police (15B)
3	2023	099/48	Carrying out or causing to permit to be carried out, any operation likely to damage part of an area of special scientific interest subject to notification by Nature Conservancy Council	Suspect Identified- Insufficient Evidence Police (15B)

GMP do not hold prosecution or conviction data as this is held by His Majesty's Courts and Tribunal Service (HMCTS). Please apply directly to HMCTS for such data.