

Date: 08/05/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/014716/R

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/014716/R

I write in connection with your request for information dated 07/05/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

- 1. The number of reported offences or incidents recorded in your force area in 2024 relating to:**
 - a) Obstructed vehicle number plates**
 - b) Illegally modified or non-compliant number plates (e.g. incorrect font, spacing, size, ghost plates or use of non-standard characters)**
- 2. Additionally, please confirm whether your force actively conducts specific operations or checks targeting illegal or obscured number plates.**

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, I am not obliged to supply all the information you have requested as exemption applies.

When refusing to provide such information because an exemption applies, Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires GMP, to provide you - the applicant - with a notice which: (a) states that fact, (b) specifies the exemption in question and (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

Question 1 is exempt under **section 21 – Information accessible to applicant by other means**. The response to this request is available online. Please follow the link below

<https://www.gmp.police.uk/SysSiteAssets/foi-media/greater-manchester/disclosure-2025/may/foi.25.014525.m-license-plate-offences.pdf>

Question 2.

GMP do not routinely conduct operations solely aimed at identifying vehicles with obscure number plates. Enforcement in this area is typically carried out as part of broader road safety initiatives or in response to specific intelligence or observed offences.