

Date: 30/10/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/015672/A

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/015672/A

I write in connection with your request for information dated 16/10/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request the following information regarding vehicle theft in your police force area. Please provide the following, broken down by calendar year for the last three full calendar years (2022, 2023 and 2024). Please also provide information from and 2025 to-date up until 31/09/2025). If data is not available up until then, please specify when the 2025 data runs until.

- 1 - The total number of recorded incidents of theft of a motor vehicle in your area***
- 2 - The total number of arrests made where the principal offence recorded was theft of motor vehicle***
- 3 - The top three locations (for example towns, districts, or wards) in your force area with the highest number of recorded motor vehicle thefts each year***
- 4 - Of the vehicles reported stolen (theft of motor vehicle), how many were subsequently recovered, broken down by year if available***

If any of the above data is only available in financial years (rather than calendar years), please make this clear and provide the information in that format instead.

If any part of this request is available sooner than the rest, I would welcome partial responses.

If fulfilling the full request would exceed the cost limit outlined in Section 12 of the Act, please advise what information could be provided within the limit.

Should you require any clarification, please don't hesitate to contact me.

If possible, please provide the information in a spreadsheet (Excel or CSV) format.

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.

GMP would be unable to reply to this FOI in full without carrying out a substantial review manually of over 26,000 crimes. This information is not held in any easily extractable manner, and we do not have any flags to allow this part of the request to be filtered down. Each crime will need to be viewed to see if it mentions if recovery was successful in the logs.

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 with a reduced time frame. However, 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.

Although excess costs remove GMP's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, as a gesture of goodwill I have supplied some information relative to your request that was retrieved before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceed (see below information). I hope that this is of use to you, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fee's regulations for the remainder of your request.

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 classified under the following Home Office classifications, with a created date between '01 January 2022' and '30 September 2025', 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.
- 37/2 Aggravated Vehicle Taking
- 48 Theft or Unauthorised Taking of a Motor Vehicle

1. 26,610.
2. Of the above figure, 2775 had a Link to at least one arrest record.