

Date: 15/10/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/015584/B

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/015584/B

I write in connection with your request for information dated 02/10/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Please could Greater Manchester Police provide statistics on the number of “dine and dash” incidents recorded across the force area for the years 2019, 2024 and 2025.

This would cover any reports of diners refusing to pay for a meal after visiting a restaurant and leaving without paying the bill.

Should you need any further information, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Thank you for coming back to me. We are looking for incident data please as we would look to know how many reports have been made to police.

For keywords – please could you search “theft” “restaurant” “bill” “stolen” “diners” “left without paying”.

Hopefully, that should yield some information.

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.

There is no specific offence or incident type that relates to ‘dine and dash’ and so the only route to search would be to use keywords to see if this brings any data back. We have carried out a keyword search on our systems for ‘theft’, ‘restaurant’, ‘bill’, ‘stolen’, ‘diners’ and ‘left without paying’ for the date

ranges '01 January 2019' to '31 December 2019' and '01 January 2024' to '01 October 2025'. This has brought back 192,425 records which will need a manual review to determine which relate to the request as the appearance of these words does not necessarily mean they are relevant. There would be no other way to extract the type of information you require in under 18hrs.

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.

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