

Date: 15th October 2025
Our ref: FOI/25/015659/D

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: FOI/25/015659/D

I write in connection with your request for information dated 14/10/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I'd like to request a list including the vehicle registration number, make and model of all fleet vehicles sold, between the dates of 01/11/2024 to 30/09/2025, within your Police Constabulary.

Refined request

Could I just have the details of vehicles sold instead then?

The information being withheld is required for car traders across the UK as recommended in the following formal Guidance's:

- *Trading Standards Business Companion - Updated September 2024 -
<https://www.businesscompanion.info/sites/default/files/Car-traders-and-consumer-law-Sep-2024-x.pdf>*
- *The Advertising Standards Authority Ltd (ASA): The CAP Code
<https://www.asa.org.uk/codes-and-rulings/advertising-codes/non-broadcast-code.html#:~:text=Non%2Dbroadcast%20Code-,The%20UK%20Code%20of%20Non%2Dbroadcast%20Advertising%20and%20Direct%20%26%20Promotional,all%20advertisers%2C%20agencies%20and%20media>*

I wish to use the data on a searchable database to identify a vehicle's previous use/history to support motor traders in adhering to relevant guidance and regulations. Please see below:

https://simplebooklet.com/va_brochure_new

I hope you will consider the above and my review request favourably.

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to locate the requested information. I can confirm the information requested is held by GMP. However, I am not obliged to provide the information requested as exemption applies.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires GMP, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) 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.

The exemption which applies to this request is:

Section 40(2)(3A)(a) – Personal Information

Section 40 is an absolute exemption with no requirement to complete a public interest test.

Section 40(2)(3A)(a) – Personal Information - Under FOIA, it would be unfair and unlawful to disclose personal information relating to third parties. To disclose the vehicle registration number and make and model of vehicles now no longer in our possession would essentially be the release of third party information. To disclose information by way of a FOIA disclosure would therefore be in contravention of the first data protection principle, which is that of fair, lawful and transparent processing. When considering whether the processing of personal information is fair and lawful, we must balance the rights of data subjects and the legitimate interests in disclosure.

There is always generally some sort of legitimate interest in information requested under FOI, unless for personal interest. In this instance, the legitimate interest is extremely slight and must be balanced against the unwarranted harm to the interests of the individuals who fall within the scope of the request (either directly or indirectly).

In light of the nature of the information and reasonable expectations of individuals, I do not believe that these individuals would expect that the personal information GMP holds about them would be publicly disclosed under the Act. The subjects of this request would have no reasonable expectation that GMP would place their personal information into the public domain as this could lead to unsolicited contact.

As articulated above, the processing of personal data is governed by legislation and as such, GMP has a legal obligation to take appropriate steps to protect personal data. Disclosing vehicle details would require disclosing personal data and would impair the ability of GMP to fulfil its legal obligations.