



Date: 29/08/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/015037/F

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/015037/F

I write in connection with your request for information dated 01/07/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am requesting the following information regarding fuel theft incidents in your jurisdiction:

1. *The number of reported fuel theft incidents or “bilking” offences (i.e. making off without payment from petrol stations) broken down monthly from January 2020 to the most recent available month in 2025.*
2. *If recorded, the estimated total value of fuel stolen each month (or year).*
3. *The number of these incidents that resulted in:*
 - a) *A suspect being identified*
 - b) *An arrest*
 - c) *Charges filed*
 - d) *A conviction*
4. *The number or proportion of these cases that were closed without a suspect identified or charged.*
5. *If recorded, how many incidents involved the use of fake, cloned or unregistered number plates*

6. *As part of investigations into fuel theft incidents, does your force routinely request or receive data from any of the following systems (if known):*

- a) CCTV surveillance*
- b) Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR)*
- c) Forecourt fuel monitoring or wetstock systems*

I would appreciate it if the information could be provided in a digital format, such as a spreadsheet (.xls/.csv) or document, for ease of analysis.

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.

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to locate information relevant to your request. I can confirm that the information you have requested is held by GMP.

However, GMP does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format. To provide the data requested would involve a manual search all crimes recorded under 053/25 49A Making Off Without Payment to see which relate to theft of fuel.

A search of our crime records shows that there are 19,136 crime records that would have to be manually reviewed. At a very conservative estimate of 5 minutes to locate, retrieve and review each file it would take approximately 1,595 hours to ascertain the data required.

Therefore, to comply with the whole of your request the process would take over 18 hours' work which exceeds the appropriate limit of £450.00, the amount to which we are legally required to respond.

As per section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the cost of providing you with the information is therefore 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 keep this within the fees limit, the information that you are requesting will need to be reduced to a greatly reduced time period. 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