

Date: 01/09/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/015291/R

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/015291/R

I write in connection with your request for information dated 06/08/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am requesting the following information under the Freedom of Information Act, relating to vehicle thefts in your force area from 1st January 2020 to the most recent available data in 2025:

Q1. The number of recorded vehicle thefts (theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle – Home Office offence code 48), broken down by calendar year (2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 to date).

Q2. The number of those vehicles that were subsequently recovered, broken down by year if available.

Q3. The five most commonly stolen vehicle makes and models across the full period (2020–2025 to date).

Q4. If available, the three most common location types where vehicle thefts occurred (e.g. on-street, driveway, car park).

Q5. If held, the top three postcode districts in your force area with the highest number of vehicle thefts across the period (2020–2025 to date), including total theft numbers for each.

If this request exceeds the cost limit, please prioritise questions 1, 3 and 5, and let me know how it could be refined.

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 some of the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format.

For GMP to be able to provide a response to this request it will require a substantial manual review of all the recorded vehicle thefts for the time periods requested. For questions 2, 3 and 4 we do not hold a central list of this information or have any search/filter fields to easily extract the data requested. All the results located for question one would have to be trawled through and this has revealed 38,533 crimes. Due to this large number, we would be unable to complete this FOI 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.

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 and a reduction on the volume of information required.

With any request that requires a manual review there is always a chance of a request being refused under S12 due to the enormity of work that is usually needed to provide the data, therefore 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 exceeded (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 with a created date between 1st January 2020 and 6th August 2025, where the Home Office classification is 48 'theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle', 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.
- We are aware of various system issues affecting committed at locations for new and migrated crimes (see below for details). These issues mean that data for a specific location may include crimes that did not happen in that location and/or exclude crimes that did.
 - Some crimes do not have a beat code, which means that they cannot be mapped to other geographies e.g. districts.
 - Some crimes have an incorrect beat code, which means that they are mapped to the wrong geographies. Some crimes do not have an address because e.g. the address has been recorded in a non-standard format or as map coordinates.

- We do not record this type of data by postcodes.

Please see Questions 1 and 5 below.

1. 38,533 crimes.
5. Bury: East – 359
Wigan: Atherton – 318
Oldham: St Marys Oldham – 282