



Date: 22/09/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/015402/G

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/015402/G

I write in connection with your request for information dated 26/08/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request data regarding incidents of criminal damage involving vehicles being “keyed” (scratched using a key or similar sharp object) within your area.

Could you please provide the following data for the period 01/07/2024 – 01/07/2025:

- The total number of reported incidents of cars being keyed.*
- The make and model of the cars involved in each incident.*
- The colour of the cars involved in each incident.*

If your systems do not record incidents of cars being specifically ‘keyed’ as a category, or if it is not possible to provide this information within the cost limits, please provide available data relating to criminal damage, vandalism or tampering instead.

If possible, please provide this data in an Excel spreadsheet (or a similar format), broken down by month within the given time period.

If any part of this request is unclear, please let me know.

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. As there is no specific offence of car keying, to provide the data requested would involve a manual search of all crimes created between 01/07/2024 and 01/07/2025 (inclusive) where the Home Office classification is 58C 'criminal damage to a vehicle', to see if a key was used to inflict the damage.

A search of our crime records show that there are over 8,000 crimes 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 666 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.