

Date: 01/09/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/015219/J

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/015219/J

I write in connection with your request for information dated 29/07/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Consistent with the Freedom of Information Act, please can you provide me with the following information in PDF format:

- 1. How many reports you have received regarding the theft, abuse, or killing of birds from public parks in each year since 2020.***
- 2. How many suspects you have arrested for the theft, abuse, or killing of birds from public parks in each year since 2020, broken down by nationality.***
- 3. How many suspects have been charged for the theft, abuse, or killing of birds from public parks in each year since 2020, broken down by nationality.***

Clarification for which HO offence to use – Are you able to search incidents, crimes, outcomes, and custody system with the following codes?

Code	Offence Title
Recordable Crime	
96	All offences under category Wildlife Crime.
Non-Recordable Crime	
108/23	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Protection of certain wild animals
108/24	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Prohibition of certain methods of killing or taking wild animals
190/01	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Protection of wild birds

190/03	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Protection of wild birds in sanctuaries
190/05	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Illegal entry into bird sanctuaries
190/06	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Prohibition of certain methods of killing or taking wild birds
190/07	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Sale etc of live or dead wild birds, eggs etc
190/09	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Registration etc of certain captive birds

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 some of the information requested is held by GMP.

However, I am not obliged to supply all this information held as an exemption applies. The request is exempt from disclosure by virtue of the following exemption:

Question 3 is exempt by Section 30(1) – Investigations and Proceedings Conducted by Public Authorities

Section 30 is a class based qualified exemption; there is a requirement to carry out a public interest test.

Section 30 - Factors Favouring Disclosure

To disclose details of how many charges have been brought against any suspects, into the public domain, would show GMP's accountability, and satisfy the public, that investigations into such incidents are being conducted correctly. It would also show GMP's use of public funds in apprehending suspects of crimes.

Section 30 - Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

Due to some ongoing investigations, to publicly release the data that is related to investigations that remain open may seriously undermine GMP's ability to complete those investigations to a full and correct conclusion.

Balancing Test

When balancing the public interest test GMP must consider whether the information should be released into the public domain, therefore arguments need to be weighed against each other. The most persuasive reason for disclosing the information would be the fact that disclosure would encourage transparency. This needs to be weighed against the strongest reason for non-disclosure, which in this case is the impact on GMP's ability to complete investigations to a full and correct conclusion.

Therefore, having considered all the factors for and against disclosure it is the decision at this time to maintain the above exemption and withhold the information from disclosure.

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 or latest outcome date between 01/01/2020 and 21/08/2025 where the HO classification is '96', 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 an address because e.g. the address has been recorded in a non-standard format or as map coordinates.
- There may be more than one suspect attached to a crime. Suspects may be attached to more than one crime during this time period, which means that the data cannot be used to identify the number of unique suspects.
- Data has been included even if no action has been taken against them e.g. eliminated, insufficient evidence, wanted, ongoing investigations which may results in an arrest.

1. 23.
2. 0
3. See above exemption.