

Date: 20/03/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016411/G

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016411/G

I write in connection with your request for information dated 17/02/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

This request is made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I am seeking high-level, aggregated financial information only relating to your force's vehicle recovery scheme. No transaction-level data, contracts, supplier pricing, or operational detail is requested.

Please provide the following, for FY 2024/25 and (if held) FY 2025/26 forecast:

- 1. Total annual cost of operating the vehicle recovery scheme (single aggregated figure per year is sufficient).*
- 2. Total annual income received by the Force i.e. statutory vehicle recovery, storage and disposal fees, sale, auction, breaking or scrapping of vehicles*
- 3. Net surplus or deficit for the vehicle recovery scheme for each year, as recorded in your accounts.*
- 4. Confirmation of the basis (statutory provision, Home Office / NPCC guidance, or internal policy) used by the force to ensure statutory vehicle recovery fees operate on a cost-recovery basis and not as a profit-generating activity. A document title, reference, or link is sufficient.*

or

Confirmation that you do not have a rationale for the above.

5. *If forecast information for FY 2025/26 is not held, please confirm this.*

If you believe any part of this request exceeds the appropriate cost limit, please provide the information that can be supplied within the limit, in accordance with section 16 of the Act.

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 ensure that responses reflect the full organisational cost would involve a manual search of expenditure categories related to the Vehicle Recovery Scheme (VRS) that may not sit directly within delegated budgets for the VRS.

Examples of additional cost areas to consider include, but are not limited to:

- Support from Commercial and Procurement Teams for tendering and on-going support to contract management
- Finance and Accounting functions
- Legal Services – direction sought in relation to VRS matters
- Health & Safety, including Occupational Health and other advisory services
- Fire Safety, including any external audits undertaken or advice sought
- Capital and revenue costs associated with buildings and maintenance
- Where VRS provide support to other functions, such as the collection and delivery of police fleet vehicles, any associated costs should be identified and excluded to ensure only VRS specific expenditure is captured.
- Any other force support functions involved in the management or delivery of the scheme that fall outside the VRS budget.

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. If one part of the request engages a Section 12 response, the whole request will engage a Section 12 response. The reason being is locating, retrieving and extracting any further information would only add to the already exceeded time obligations and so no other searches have been completed at this stage.

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, your request should be limited to a specific budget area.

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