

Date: 08/04/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016551/R

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016551/R

I write in connection with your request for information dated 10/04/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

As a freedom of information request, I would like to request the following data for your police force.

Please set out the data as annual totals for the previous two years (11 March 2024 - 10 March 2025, and 11 March 2025 - 10 March 2026):

1. *The number of vehicle theft offences recorded*
2. *The number of vehicle theft offences recorded, split by whether or not the vehicle stolen was a motorbike*
3. *The number of vehicle theft offences recorded where a motorbike was stolen, split by whether or not a suspect was identified. Where they were identified, please provide those figures split by whether the suspect was under 18 years old, or 18 and over.*

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 in questions 2 and 3 would involve a manual search of all theft of motor vehicle crimes to establish which related to motorcycles. The type of vehicle stolen is not a searchable field on our crime recording system, so the only way to establish if the stolen vehicle was a motorbike would be to conduct a manual review.

A search of our crime records shows that there are 11,208 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 934 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. 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, 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.