



Date: 08/04/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016562/U

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016562/U

I write in connection with your request for information dated 12/03/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Please could you provide the following information, under the Freedom of Information Act?

- 1. The number of arrests made for offences related to mobile phone theft between 1 September 2025 and 1 March 2026.*
- 2. Of the arrests made, the number of suspects recorded as being on bail for outstanding charges when the alleged offending took place.*
- 3. The number of charges brought for offences related to mobile phone theft between 1 September 2025 and 1 March 2026.*
- 4. The number of people charged with offences related to mobile phone theft between 1 September 2025 and 1 March 2026.*
- 5. The greatest number of charges against a single person relating to mobile phone theft in this period.*

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 would involve a manual search of arrests under Section 1 of the Theft Act 1968 to establish if the item stolen was a mobile phone. Furthermore, we don't record on arrest records whether the detainee was on bail for other offences. This would require a further manual review.

A search of our arrest records shows that there are 2,269 arrests that would have to be manually reviewed. At a very conservative estimate of 3 minutes to locate, retrieve and review each file it would take approximately 113 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.