

Date: 19/01/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016182/M

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016182/M

I write in connection with your request for information dated 15/01/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Please treat this email as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act.

I am seeking aggregated recorded-crime data (not incident logs) relating to thefts from vans (i.e., property stolen from a vehicle, not theft of the vehicle itself).

For each calendar year:

- 2024***
- 2025***

Please provide the total number of recorded crimes in your force area where:

- the offence classification is "Theft from a motor vehicle" / "Theft from vehicle" (or your closest equivalent recorded-crime classification for theft from a vehicle), AND***
- the victim vehicle is recorded as a van / light commercial vehicle (e.g., van, panel van, Luton van, light goods vehicle, LCV, or equivalent local vehicle-type/body-type codes).***

If straightforward from the same query, please also provide a monthly breakdown (YYYY-MM) for the same period.

If you are unable to filter reliably to vans/LCVs, please instead provide the total "theft from motor vehicle / theft from vehicle" counts for 2024 and 2025, and briefly explain why the van/LCV filter cannot be extracted.

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, GMP does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format.

For GMP to be able to provide a response to this request it will require a substantial manual review of all the recorded thefts for the time periods requested. Our systems do not have a searchable field to be able to easily determine what items have been stolen/taken and so a review would be the only way to extract this information. For this request you have asked for "van" related thefts under the HO offence **"Theft from a motor vehicle" / "Theft from vehicle"**. While we can provide the total number of records held under this classification, to understand fully if the vehicle was a "van" stolen would require the manual trawl to ensure we provide accurate information. We have completed a search using the keyword "van" and this has revealed over 2600 results, of which to know if the reference of a van in the MO is due to theft would require a manual check.

Therefore, as per **Section 12(1)** of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the cost of providing you with the information is 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 attempt to keep this within the fees limit, the information you are requesting will need revising with a reduced time frame. With any request that requires a manual review there is always a chance of a request being refused under S12 due to the enormity of work that is usually needed to provide the data, therefore 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.

Although excess costs remove GMP's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, as a gesture of goodwill I have supplied some information relative to your request that was retrieved before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded (see below information). I hope that this is of use to you, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fee's regulations for the remainder of your request.

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 between 01/01/2024 and 31/12/2025 where the HO offence group is 'theft from a motor vehicle', 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.

The data provided also shows the number of results where 'van' appears in either the crime description or crime MO description, broken down by year. **Please Note – The appearance of Van**

does not represent the number of thefts relating to this vehicle. This can only be determined following a manual review as outlined above.

Year	HO Offence total for <i>"Theft from a motor vehicle" / "Theft from vehicle"</i> With 'Van' filter	HO Offence total for <i>"Theft from a motor vehicle" / "Theft from vehicle"</i>
2024	1,339	9,581
2025	1,283	8,836
Total	2622	18417