

Date: 30/01/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016276/R

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016276/R

I write in connection with your request for information dated 30/01/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Could you please provide us with the number of crime reports relating to pet theft, split out by year:

2025

2024

2023

2022

2021

If five years will exceed the FOI budget limit, please just focus on the past three years (so 2025, 2024, and 2023).

It would also be great to know where these pets were stolen/breeds (please ignore if this exceeds FOI budget limit and prioritise the above)

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 the information requested is held by GMP.

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

GMP would be required to carry out a substantial review manually to provide a response to this request. a new HO offence code was introduced in August 2024 under 049/03 'abduction of pet dog/cat'. Prior to this the type of information you have asked for was/is not held in a retrievable manner without carrying out searches into all of the recorded thefts from 2021-Aug 2024. This amounts to 352k crimes under 'theft offences' label and to review each of these would far exceed the time limits allowed for completion under the FOIA.

The same outcome would apply to identifying where these pets were stolen from, type of breed they are and what type of animal they are. As not all pets are limited to cats and dogs, this review would also incorporate checks to understand any reports of other animals reported stolen as a pet, such as rabbits.

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 to request the data held for the HO code 049/03 'abduction of pet dog/cat' with a revised date from August 2024 to present. However, this would still require a review to ensure this relates to "pet theft" and would only cover cats and dogs and no other associated pet.

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.