

Date: 17/02/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016326/K

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016326/K

I write in connection with your request for information dated 06/02/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Following the introduction of the Pet Abduction Act 2024, police forces in England and Northern Ireland are now obliged to maintain data on the numbers of dogs and cats reported stolen in their respective areas.

In order to build a picture of what is happening as regards cat abduction/theft in particular, since 2015 Pet Theft Awareness have been collating data using Freedom of Information requests from each police force across the UK. This data and our subsequent report (the Cat Theft Report 2022) helped inform the discussion as the Bill progressed through parliament. With a very few exceptions, most police forces have been very helpful and have consistently provided this information. I would therefore be grateful if you could complete my freedom of information request below:

- 1. What was the total number of cat abduction crimes in 2025? (An additional request for cat theft will be sent separately to distinguish)***
- 2. What was the outcome (charge/summons, community resolution, active investigation, evidential difficulties, no suspect identified) for each cat abduction crime in 2025?***
- 3. Please list specific cat breed types with amounts (abducted in 2025) — or 'breed unrecorded' or 'mixed breed'?***

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.

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 01/01/2025 and 31/12/2025 where the HO 5-digit code is '049/03 - Abduction of pet dog/cat', excluding cancelled crimes and crimes classified as non-counting 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.

A manual review has been carried out and although some reports are made under 049/03, an actual abduction/theft did not take place on review of the MO – These have therefore been removed from the totals. The data below are the figures remaining following the review.

Question 1 and 2

Outcome	Total
Named Suspect identified: victim supports police action but evidential difficulties prevent further action.	6
Named Suspect identified: evidential difficulties prevent further action; victim does not support (or has withdrawn support from) police action.	4
Investigation Complete: No suspect identified. Crime investigated as far as reasonably possible –Case closed pending further investigative opportunities becoming available	3
Evidential Difficulties Victim Based – Named suspect not identified: The crime is confirmed but the victim either declines/ or is unable to support further police investigation to identify the offender.	1
Community Resolution	1

Question 3.

Upon review, this revealed no information held.