

Date: 24/02/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016391/T

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016391/T

I write in connection with your request for information dated 13/02/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (or the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, where applicable), please provide the following information regarding illegal fly-tipping and waste sites within your jurisdiction for each of the last five calendar years (2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025) and for 2026 to date:

1. Incident and Arrest Data

- a. The total number of incidents recorded by your force with the closing category/tag of "Fly-tipping" or "Illegal Waste Disposal."***
- b. The total number of arrests made where the primary or secondary offence was related to Section 33 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (unauthorised deposit of waste).***
- c. The number of vehicles seized by your force suspected of being involved in fly-tipping or illegal waste transport.***

2. Illegal Waste Sites

- a. The number of "Illegal Waste Sites" your force has assisted in shutting down in partnership with the Environment Agency or Local Authorities.***
- b. The number of active criminal investigations currently being led by your force (or a dedicated rural/environmental crime unit) regarding organized waste crime.***

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 some of the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format.

GMP would not be able to respond to parts of this FOI without carrying out a manual review across parts 1b and 1c at a minimum. For question 1c, GMP do not record any seizure under categories like "fly tipping", instead they are recorded under the legislation in which the seizure relates to. Only by completing a review of each seizure would we know how many related to this request as if held, the data would be stored in the individual log only. IN 2025, GMP recovered 21,350 vehicles. To conduct a manual trawl of each of these would far exceed the 18hrs permitted.

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.

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 reduction in the breakdown of data required. For example, limiting any request to the total number of records under a certain HO offence code provided by yourself. With regards to questions 2, while no searches have been carried out, it would most likely consist of a manual review to obtain any data and so the removal of all question 2 may be advisable.

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.