

Date: 20/02/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016421/I

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016421/I

I write in connection with your request for information dated 18/02/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding dog theft within your force area. Please provide the following information:

- 1. Annual Totals:** *The total number of recorded crimes involving the theft or abduction of a dog for each of the last 5 calendar years (up to and including 2025)*
- a) Specific Offence Codes:** *If possible, please break these down by the Home Office offence code (e.g., how many were recorded under the new Pet Abduction Act 2024 vs. general theft/burglary)*
- b) Location Type:** *For each recorded crime, please provide the "location type" (e.g., dwelling/home, garden, public park, outside a shop, or from a vehicle)*
- c) Outcomes:** *The number of these cases that resulted in a charge or summons, a community resolution, or where no suspect was identified*
- d) Breeds:** *If held and within the cost limit, the top three dog breeds most frequently reported as stolen in the last year*

Formatting Note: *I would prefer to receive this information in an electronic format, such as an Excel or CSV file. If the request for all 5 years exceeds the cost limit, please prioritise the last 2 years of data (up to and including 2025).*

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.

The offence 'abduction of pet dog/cat' was only introduced in August 2024, therefore, to provide a response based on the last 5 calendar years would require a manual review of all the thefts prior to this date to see what Information GMP have recorded. Prior to August 2024 the theft of a dog/cat would have been recorded under theft and so this information is not readily available for easy extraction without a manual trawl of each crime reported. Additionally, to understand what breed and location type is connected with each offence would require a separate review on its own. Based on the time frame, GMP have recorded over 432,000 crimes and based on the last 2 years GMP have recorded over 139,000 crimes. This means this request could not be completed in its current form in under 18hrs.

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 data held for cat/dog abductions from August 2024 onwards only using the new offence code 'abduction of pet dog/cat'.

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