

Date: 07/01/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/016043/H

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/016043/H

I write in connection with your request for information dated 19/12/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Request 1

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I request the following information relating to tool theft in your police force area between January 2021 and December 2025 or the latest available date:

- Total number of reported tool theft offences (including tools stolen from vans, workplaces, homes, or other locations) broken down by year***
- Number of tools or tool sets recovered and whether they were returned to victims***
- Any recorded data on the estimated total value of stolen tools for each year.***

Request 2.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I request the following information for the period 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2025 (or the latest available date) for your police force area:

- Total number of reported pet theft incidents (all species) broken down by year -Total number of reported dog theft incidents broken down by year -Number of stolen pets (all species) recovered and returned to owners -Number of stolen dogs recovered and returned to owners***

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 request 1, a manual review would need to be carried out to be able to provide a response to this part of your FOI request. This is because we do not record the type of items stolen from theft offences in a manner that can be easily extracted from our system. A manual review of all theft in this period would be required and this equals over 456k crimes which isn't feasible within the 18 hour limit.

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.

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 considerably reduced time frame for request 1 and/or to provide a list of keywords for us to use such as "drills, Hammers etc" Please note a review may still need to be carried out to assess the relevance of any results.

Regarding request 2, There is an offence relating to specifically theft of a pet dog or cat we can use; however this offence was only created in August 2024 so will not cover the total time frame you have selected. If you wish to use this option for Dog and Cats only, please revise your timeframe and let us know on a new request.

Should you wish to refine and resubmit your request in line with the advice above please respond to freedomofinformation@gmp.police.uk.