



Date: 04/02/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016190/M

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016190/M

I write in connection with your request for information dated 16/01/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

To whom it may concern,

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 I would like to request data regarding burglaries in which heat-based tools (commonly referred to as "Blowtorch burglaries") were used or suspected.

I request the following information:

1)

Attempted burglary reports involving use of a blowtorch/cutting torch/oxyacetylene in your area:

o

Data shown annually from 1st January 2015 to 31st December 2025

o

Whether the target was commercial or residential.

o

Whether any areas were flagged internally as repeated targets

o

Whether there was fire service involvement

o

The number of incidents resulting in a charge or no suspect identified

2)

Whether the force has produced any internal assessments, profiles or briefings relating specifically to burglaries involving heat-based tools during this period

3)

Any footage of blowtorch burglary attempts that can be shared, no personal data required.

If my request is denied in whole or in part, I ask that you justify all deletions by reference to the act. If the exact data requested is not held, please provide the closest available proxy or explain what information is held instead.

I would like the following information to be provided in attachments to my email

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to locate information relevant to your request. I can confirm that the information you have requested is held by GMP.

However, GMP does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format. To provide the data requested would involve a manual search of all burglary crimes to establish how many, if any, involved a blowtorch.

A search of crime records shows that there are 258,000 crimes that would have to be manually reviewed. At a very conservative estimate of 5 minutes to locate, retrieve and review each file it would take approximately 21,500 hours to ascertain the data required.

Therefore, to comply with the whole of your request the process would take over 18 hours' work which exceeds the appropriate limit of £450.00, the amount to which we are legally required to respond.

As per section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the cost of providing you with the information is therefore 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 keep this within the fees limit, the information that you are requesting will need to be reduced to a greatly reduced time period. 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.