

Date: 27/01/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016237/K

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016237/K

I write in connection with your request for information dated 26/01/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding mobile phone thefts at festivals within your jurisdiction. Specifically, I would like to obtain the following data:

1. The number of reported mobile phone thefts at each festival in your area for the years:

2025

2024

2023

2. The number of total thefts, not limited to mobile devices, at each festival in your area for the years:

2025

2024

2023

3. If available, please also provide:

- The number of stolen phones that were later recovered or found for each year from each Festivals***
- A breakdown of the models of stolen phones (if this information is recorded) for each year from each festival.***

****Please note, Festival in this context refers to any music, food or drink festivals, harvest festivals, flower festivals, horse racing festivals, festivals of transport, etc organised within the area throughout the year.***

****data based on a keyword search 'FESTIVAL' in the Log Entry text, mentioned in the incident, or description or Crime MO where the Crime Group is 'THEFT' is appropriate for this request***

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.

However, GMP does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format.

GMP would be required to undertake a manual review in order to fulfil this FOI request due to how the requested information is recorded within our systems. We have searched for crimes created between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2025 where the word 'festival' appears in the crime description or crime MO description, where crime tree level 2 = 'theft' and there are 284 crimes returned. These 284 crimes would need to be manually checked to understand how many of them relate to mobile theft, the number of recovered phones including the make and model if listed. At a conservative rate of 5 minutes per each review, this FOI would take approximately 23hrs to complete.

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 reduced time frame. 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.