

Date: 23/06/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017003/Y

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017003/Y

I write in connection with your request for information dated 04/06/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, we would be grateful if you could provide any of the following information:

1. The total recorded costs incurred by the force in responding to and investigating animal-related crimes, including:

- the cost of officer time spent responding to incidents and carrying out investigations***
- costs associated with gathering evidence (e.g. statements, site visits, seizure support)***
- use of specialist units (e.g. rural crime or wildlife crime officers/teams)***
- custody-related costs where suspects are detained***

2. The total recorded volume of police activity relating to animal-related crimes, such as:

- number of incidents***
- recorded offences***
- use of specialist wildlife or rural crime officers***

3. Total costs recovered, or liable to be recovered, for recorded animal-related crimes, including:

- whether any of these costs are recoverable from offenders (e.g. through court orders)***
- any income received related to enforcement activity (if applicable)***
- any information on the proportion of liable costs that is not recovered***

If exact financial data is not held, I would be grateful for any proxy measures (e.g. officer time, incident counts) or relevant internal documents that provide insight into the resource impact.

Please provide the above information for the following financial years: 2023/24 (01/04/2023 - 31/03/2024), 2024/25 (01/04/2024 - 31/03/2025), 2025/26 (01/04/2025 - 31/03/2026).

If you cannot provide the information requested above in financial years, please provide it in calendar years (2023, 2024, 2025) or however your data is stored. If you do not have this data for all the years requested, please provide the data for the years you have. If the requested years are missing altogether, please provide data for the latest available time period.

We appreciate that your organisation may not record all of the above information, and we would be grateful for whatever data you are able to provide.

If you are not able to provide all the information requested within the cost limit, please provide any part of this information you can. If any part of this request cannot be answered because the information is not held in recorded form, please state this clearly.

If complying with any element of this request would exceed the appropriate cost limit, please provide:

- * The reason why, and*
- * Advice on how the request could be refined to fall within the limit.*

If possible, please provide the data in Excel or CSV format.

If you have any questions about this request or would like to discuss it further, please do not hesitate to get in contact. We look forward to your response within the statutory 20 working days.

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.

The information requested under this Freedom of Information (FOI) request is not held centrally in a format that allows for straightforward extraction. Fulfilling this request would require a thorough, in-depth manual review. We would first need to identify all relevant animal crime cases as there is a Home Office classification called 'wildlife crime', however this wouldn't include all crimes where animals are involved.

Each case file would then need to be reviewed manually to determine its duration and identify the named officers. Following this, each officer would need to be contacted to confirm the hours they dedicated to the case. Furthermore, as other officers may have provided ad hoc assistance, we would need to ask all personnel to check their Pocket Notebooks (PNBs) for unrecorded animal crime logs, before cross-referencing these findings with GMP systems to eliminate duplicates. For 2025 alone, there have been over 312,000 incident and crimes of which to review each one to see which relate to animal crime would far exceed 18hrs.

In addition, the review would require manually checking all located records to establish what specific information is held that could answer part 3 of your FOI request.

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 the removal of questions 1 and 3 of this FOI request. In addition, the supply of the relevant HO offence code along with any keywords to use in our search.

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.