



Date: 21/05/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016783/F

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016783/F

I write in connection with your request for information dated 27/04/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

FOI request: parcel thefts and outcomes (2022-2026)

Freedom of Information Act 2000 request

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please provide data relating to theft of delivered parcels (for example, parcels stolen from doorsteps, communal hallways, shared post areas, or immediately outside residential premises), recorded by your force between 1 January 2022 and 31 December 2026 inclusive.

Recorded offences

1. Please provide the total number of recorded crimes per calendar year (2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, and 2026 to date) where:

- the Home Office crime code used was 49/10 - Theft (not classified elsewhere) (or any successor or equivalent code), and*
- the recorded circumstances indicate that the stolen property was a delivered parcel or package.*

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Outcomes

1. For the offences described above, please provide, broken down by calendar year, the number of cases that resulted in:

- a) an arrest, and*
- b) a charge.*

If outcomes are recorded using outcome codes rather than arrest/charge fields, please provide the figures corresponding to:

- crimes resulting in at least one arrest, and*
- crimes resulting in a charge or summons (or equivalent disposal).*

Identification method

I recognise that there is no specific Home Office offence code for parcel theft. For the purposes of this request, parcel theft offences may be identified using:

- any local flags, markers, or MO categories used by your force, and/or*
- keyword searches within free-text fields (for example "parcel", "package", "delivered", "left at doorstep", "communal area", or similar).*

Please use whichever method or combination of methods your force normally relies on when responding to internal analysis or FOI requests of this nature.

Context and limitations

If it is not possible to provide a complete response, please:

- indicate which parts of the request cannot be answered,*
- explain why the information is not held or not retrievable, and*
- provide any partial data that can be disclosed within cost and time limits.*

Please also confirm:

- the crime recording system used during the period covered, and*
- whether any changes to recording or outcomes practice between 2022 and 2026 may affect comparability over time.*

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 recorded theft crimes to see if the crime related to the theft of a parcel. Even using the Home Office offence code and keywords you have provided, this would not be feasible.

A search of our crime records shows that there are approximately 9,000 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 750 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. 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 and so no other searches have been completed at this stage.

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.