



Date: 27/05/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016812/T

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016812/T

I write in connection with your request for information dated 01/05/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I would like to request data relating to car thefts within your police force area over the last three calendar years.

Specifically, please provide the following:

The total number of reported car thefts for each of the following years:

2023

2024

2025 (or the most recent year available)

Where possible, please include a yearly breakdown of the data as separate totals.

In addition, where available, please provide a monthly breakdown of these figures for each year.

For the purposes of this request, I would like the above data broken down for the following areas within your force:

Manchester

Oldham

Rochdale

Salford

Stockport

Wigan

If data is not held specifically at this level, please provide the closest available geographic breakdown (e.g. borough, district, or policing area) that corresponds to these locations, and indicate how these areas map to the requested cities.

If exact figures are not held in this format, I would be grateful if you could provide the closest available equivalent data or reasonable estimates based on existing records.

If your internal definitions differ, please provide the data according to your standard classifications and include a brief explanation of how the figures are defined.

If any of this information is already publicly available, I would appreciate it if you could direct me to the specific source.

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. As there is no specific offence of car theft, to provide the data requested would involve a manual search of all crimes recorded under Home Office offence code 048/01- theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle, to determine which relate to cars.

A search of crime records show that there are 18,513 theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle 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 1,540 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.