

Thursday, 11 June 2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017007/C

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017007/C

I write in connection with your request for information dated 04/06/2026, I note you seek access to the following information:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding the theft of vehicle parts (commonly referred to as "car stripping") within your jurisdiction.

Specifically, I would like to request the following data for the years 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025, or the most recent date available:

- *Total number of reported "Theft from a Motor Vehicle" offence where vehicle parts or components were stolen (excluding the theft of personal belongings inside the car like laptops or bags).*
- *A breakdown of the types of parts stolen (e.g., Catalytic Converters, Steering Wheels, Headlights/Indicators, Wing Mirrors, Airbags, or Infotainment/Sat Nav units).*

Result of Searches

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

However, GMP does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format. There are 60k crimes on the system recorded as classification 45 'theft from a motor vehicle' created between 01/01/2021 and 31/05/2026. All of these would need a manual review to ascertain if these records are relevant to this request as there are no tools on the system to do it promptly. Even if we reduced this to the date range 01/06/2025 to 31/05/2026 there are still over 8k crimes to review. As such, it is anticipated it would take in excess of 18hours to provide the requested information.

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 keep this within the fees limit, we can provide statistics on Home Office offence code 45 'theft from a motor vehicle'. Any further details within the HO code 45 would require manual reviews to gather the information. 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.