

Monday, 22 June 2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017068/P

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017068/P

I write in connection with your request for information dated 15/06/2026, I note you seek access to the following information:

Dogs

- 1. What were the total number of dog theft/abduction crimes in 2024, and in 2025 (with monthly breakdowns if possible)?*
- 2. What was the outcome (charge/summons, community resolution, active investigation, evidential difficulties, no suspect identified) for each dog theft/abduction crime in 2024, and 2025?*
- 3. Please show how many of the recorded crime outcomes in 2024 and 2025 are under:*
 - a) The Theft Act 1968*
 - b) The Pet Abduction Act 2024*
- 4. How many dogs were listed with each dog theft/abduction crime in 2024 and 2025?*
- 5. Can details about stolen/abducted dog breed, sex, age, and location of theft (house, garden, outside shop etc) also be provided for 2024 and 2025 please?*
- 6. How many of the stolen/abducted dogs from 2024 have been recovered/reunited? How many of the total were / were not microchipped? How many of the stolen/abducted dogs from 2025 have been recovered/reunited? How many of the total were / were not microchipped?*

Cats

- 1. What were the total number of cat theft/abduction crimes in 2024, and in 2025 (with monthly breakdowns if possible)?*
- 2. What was the outcome (charge/summons, community resolution, active investigation, evidential difficulties, no suspect identified) for each cat theft/abduction crime in 2024, and 2025?*

3. Please show how many of the recorded crime outcomes in 2024 and 2025 are under:

a) The Theft Act 1968

b) The Pet Abduction Act 2024

4. How many cats were listed with each cat theft/abduction crime in 2024 and 2025? Can any multiple thefts/abductions with one crime please be highlighted.

5. Can details about stolen/abducted cat breed, sex, age, and location of theft (house, garden etc) also be provided for 2024 and 2025 please?

6. How many of the stolen/abducted cats from 2024 have been recovered/reunited? How many of the total were / were not microchipped? How many of the stolen/abducted cats from 2025 have been recovered/reunited? How many of the total were / were not microchipped?

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.

There are several issues to address regarding gathering information for this request. There is a specific Home Office offence code 049/03 Abduction of pet dog/cat which came into effect from late August 2024. We can provide some data for 049/03 from September 2024 onwards but any data prior to this and to locate if there are any record under Part 3a) the Theft Act 1968 has to be manually trawled through all theft offences. From initial searches carried out between 01/01/2024 and 31/12/2025 there have been 165,250 theft offences recorded and would need to be manually reviewed. As such, it is anticipated it would take in excess of 18hours to provide the requested information.

We can provide the total data for 049/03 on Parts 1 & 2. Part 3 – if you choose 049/03 data, they will be under the Pet Abduction Act 2024 – please see [Home Office Crime Recording Rules for frontline officers, staff - GOV.UK](#) for further information. However, the further breakdown information on Parts 4 to 6 all requires manual checks on each case if we hold any of the 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. As aforementioned, we can provide the total data for 049/03 on Parts 1 & 2 from September 2024. To split cat and dog data would requires manual reviews. 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. Parts 4 to 6 should be removed as it would be more than likely to be over the cost limit to complete these parts.