

Date: 12/06/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017038/J

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017038/J

I write in connection with your request for information dated 09/06/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am writing to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 relating to the theft and recovery of older and historic vehicles reported to Greater Manchester Police.

I would be grateful if you could provide the following data for each of the last five complete calendar years (2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024):

- 1. The total number of vehicles reported stolen to Greater Manchester Police.***
- 2. Of those, the number of vehicles aged 25 years or older at the time of the theft report.***
- 3. Of vehicles aged 25 years or older reported stolen, the number subsequently recovered.***
- 4. The average time between theft report and recovery for vehicles aged 25 years or older, where calculable.***
- 5. The ten vehicle makes most commonly reported stolen among vehicles aged 25 years or older, if this breakdown is held.***
- 6. The number of theft cases involving vehicles aged 25 years or older that resulted in a charge or summons, and the number that remain undetected.***

If your records do not hold vehicle age as a distinct field, I would welcome the year of first registration as an alternative, and a partial response covering available fields. If a separate specialist vehicle crime category exists, please provide that data separately.

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.

GMP would be unable to fulfil this FOI without carrying out a review manually for each element of the requested data. For the years of 2020-2024 a search was carried out and it revealed over 37,000 records that will need to be trawled through. We would not know the age of a stolen vehicle as this is not a field we use for recording such data. This would form most of the review to see what data we hold to answer these parts. Given the number of located records, this FOI would not be completed in under 18hrs.

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 a reduced time frame, and/or the removal of the age of the vehicle. 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.