



Date: 04/03/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016127/F

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016127/F

I write in connection with your request for information dated 08/01/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for the period 1st January 2024 to present day.

Please provide:

- 1. The number of crime scenes attended by Crime Scene Investigators (CSIs) where physical indicators of cryptocurrency or crypto wallets were identified and/or recovered by them. Examples include:
 - a. Hardware wallets (such as Ledger or Trezor devices)*
 - b. Recovery phrases or seed words*
 - c. QR codes linked to cryptocurrency addresses*
 - d. Printed or handwritten notes referencing cryptocurrency*
 - e. Any other physical items clearly associated with cryptocurrency use or storage**
- 2. A breakdown of the types of crimes where such indicators were found (for example, fraud, drug manufacturing, cybercrime).*
- 3. Copies or summaries of any Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) provided to CSIs regarding the identification and handling of cryptocurrency related evidence.*
- 4. Details of any training provided to CSIs on recognising cryptocurrency related evidence.*
- 5. The number of recorded seizures of physical cryptocurrency wallets during CSI attendance.*

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 crime scene attendance records to see if any such evidence was present and if it was seized.

A search of our records shows that there are over 50,000 records 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 4,167 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.