



Date: 05/03/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016316/I

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016316/I

I write in connection with your request for information dated 05/02/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Can you please confirm:

How many cases of theft that involved theft of tools in 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025?

Can you also provide a breakdown of all outcome types for the recorded cases in 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025, in particular for these two outcomes:

- Investigation complete – no suspect identified*
- Charged/Summonsed*

Please send the information in electronic form, by reply email if possible.

Thank you for your time and assistance.

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 "tool theft", the only way to collate the information you have requested would be to manually search all recorded theft crimes to see in the item stolen was a tool.

A search of our crime records shows that for just the last six years there are 663,124 recorded theft crimes. At a very conservative estimate of 5 minutes to locate, retrieve and review each file it would take approximately 55,260 hours to ascertain the data required. Even conducting a keyword search for "tool" on the modus operandi (MO) would not be feasible within the cost and time limit. There are 12,045 crimes with the word "tool" present in the MO. These would still need to be manually reviewed to ensure they are relevant to your request as this would include MOs where phrases such as "unknown tool used to break window" are present.

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.