

Date: 26th February 2026
Our ref: FOI/26/016382/S

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: FOI/26/016382/S

I write in connection with your request for information dated 13/02/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Under the FOI Act, please can you provide me with the following information for 'making off without payment' offence under the Theft Act 1978.

***Q1: Provide me with the full list of 'making off without payment' offences reported to the force which contained the word 'pub' or 'restaurant' in the summary in 2025.
For each report, include the date, summary and outcome.***

***Q2: Provide me with the full list of 'making off without payment' offences reported to the force which contained the word 'pub' or 'restaurant' in the summary in 2024.
For each report, include the date, summary and outcome.***

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to locate the requested information. I can confirm the information requested is held by GMP. However, I am not obliged to supply you with all the information as an exemption applies to part of your request.

The Freedom of Information Act is a piece of legislation designed to give the public access to information held by public authorities. It exists to make the decisions of those authorities transparent and to keep the populace better informed regarding matters which affect them.

A Public Authority is able to refuse requests which can divert resources away from more deserving requests and other public business, or threaten to undermine the credibility of the freedom of information system. It is recognised that dealing with unreasonable requests can place a strain on resources and get in the way of delivering mainstream services. This is particularly relevant at this

time due to the ongoing demand on GMP's FOI unit which is currently experiencing high workloads and reduced levels of staffing.

When identifying potentially vexatious requests the indicators contained within the Information Commissioner's guidance on Section 14(1) should be considered. In this case we feel the following indicator applies to part of your request:

Burden on the Authority

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 14(1) of FOIA a request deemed as overly burdensome does not oblige GMP to comply with a request for information.

The ICO confirms within their guidance that they consider there to be a high threshold for refusing a request on such grounds if there is a viable case in line with the below recommendations:

- 1) The requester has asked for a substantial volume of information and
- 2) The authority has real concerns about potentially exempt information, which it will be able to substantiate if asked to do so by the ICO and
- 3) Any potentially exempt information cannot easily be isolated because it is scattered throughout the requested material.

As such the "*summary of each report*" is being refused due to the amount of time required to review and prepare the information for disclosure, which would impose a grossly oppressive burden on the organisation.

To provide the summary of each crime recorded would involve manual redactions of each individual MO Description as they do contain sensitive and personal information which could identify directly or indirectly a living human and therefore Section 40(2) Personal Information will be engaged as this represents information that identifies a living individual, to disclose this information would breach the principles of the GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018. Personal data is defined by Article 4 of the GDPR and Part 1 of the Data Protection Act 2018, and means any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person ('data subject').

The number of MO descriptions which would need to be manually redacted to prepare the summaries for disclosure would be 415. At an estimate of 5 minutes per MO description would take approximately 34.5 hours to prepare the data for disclosure.

For this reason, any further requests of this nature will be refused under Section 14(1) of the Act, which states that requests that are considered to be vexatious do not have to be complied with.

However, please see below for the results for all the other questions.

Caveats:

In July 2019, GMP implemented one of the largest IT infrastructure changes in UK policing. The systems are in continual development and the data provided for this request is what the systems currently hold.

This data contains crimes with a created date between '01 January 2024' and '31 December 2025', with a HO 5 Digit Code of '053/25 – Making off without payment' where the crime description or crime MO description contains 'pub' or 'restaurant' excluding cancelled crimes and crimes classified as fraud. Further information about cancelled crimes can be obtained from the Home Office Counting Rules. Details regarding fraud crime can be obtained by contacting the NFIB. Please note:

- The keyword methodology does not account for spelling errors.

- The appearance of the keywords in the text fields does not necessarily mean that records are relevant to this request. (e.g. a search for 'pub' bringing back a recorded that has 'public' in the crime description of crime MO description').

The exact date of the crime has been exempted from disclosure under Section 40(2) Personal Information – this information constitutes personal data of an identifiable living individual, and to disclose this information would breach the principles of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. Personal data is defined by Section 1 of the Data Protection Act 2018 and means data that relates to an individual who can be identified directly or indirectly from that data.

Month	2024	2025
January	11	21
February	15	20
March	27	13
April	22	12
May	28	10
June	21	9
July	28	14
August	24	17
September	11	12
October	19	12
November	19	10
December	26	14
Total	251	164

Due to low numbers, the outcomes have been split and merged to year totals as by providing all this information together would significantly increase the likelihood of identifying the individual(s) concerned, and as such the exemption under S40(2) – Personal Information, would be engaged and result in information being refused. By splitting this data it can be provided in its entirety.

Outcome	2024	2025
A Community Resolution (with or without formal restorative justice) (Informal Police Action) (8C)	4	3
Adult Conditional Caution (3B)	1	1
Charge (1A)	5	2
Evidential Difficulties Victim Based - No Suspect Identified (14)	63	12
Further Invest Not in Public Interest (Pol) (21)	1	0
Investigation Complete - No Suspect Identified (18)	152	116
Refer To Pnc (15D)	0	1
Suspect Identified-Insufficient Evidence Police (15B)	10	10
Suspect Identified-Victim Does not Support (16)	15	19