



Date: 07/05/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016166/M

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016166/M

I write in connection with your request for information dated 13/01/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am writing in relation to reference number 13697312, previously issued by the Information Governance Team of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority.

I am currently researching historical cases for a non-fiction book on unusual crimes, to be published in Finland. One chapter concerns the series of underground tunnel thefts and attempted thefts in Greater Manchester, sometimes referred to in the media as the "Manchester Mole" or "Mole-in-the-Wall" cases.

Specifically, I am seeking information held by Greater Manchester Police relating to investigations into the following incidents:

- *2007 – Fallowfield Retail Park*
- *2012 – Blockbuster Video store, Fallowfield*
- *2013 – Burnage (attempted tunnel theft)*
- *2014 – Eccles / Salford (ATM theft)*

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would be grateful if you could advise:

- 1. Whether GMP holds investigation records, summaries, or incident logs relating to these cases;*
- 2. Whether any suspects were identified, arrested, charged, or prosecuted in connection with these tunnel-related offences;*
- 3. Whether the cases remain unsolved or were formally closed;*
- 4. Whether any information can be released in redacted or summary form, if full disclosure is exempt.*

If appropriate, I would also appreciate guidance on whether a more targeted request (for example, by crime reference numbers or investigation units) would be more effective.

This request is made for historical and research purposes only.

Result of Searches

GMP does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format. The information is stored on an archived system. To access this would take at least two days. 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.