

Date: 16/04/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016711/P

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016711/P

I write in connection with your request for information dated 15/04/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I would be grateful if you could provide the following information relating to Greater Manchester's Bee Network Cycle Hire scheme (operated by Beryl on behalf of Transport for Greater Manchester), covering the period from November 2021 to the date this request is processed:

- 1. The number of reports received by Greater Manchester Police involving the theft or suspected theft of Bee Network hire bikes.***
- 2. The number of reports received involving the suspected unauthorised or illegal use of Bee Network hire bikes (e.g. bikes being used without an active hire account).***
- 3. For both of the above: how many resulted in a crime record being created, how many led to a suspect being identified, and how many resulted in a charge or caution.***
- 4. The number of Bee Network hire bikes seized or recovered by GMP during this period.***

If data is not held in a way that distinguishes Bee Network bikes from other bicycle theft reports, please state this clearly.

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 some of the information requested is held by GMP.

However, GMP does not hold all the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format.

For GMP to be able to provide a response to this request it will require a substantial manual review of all the recorded crimes that relate to part 1 and 2 of this request to then attempt to answer part 3. In addition, while GMP may seize bikes, a review would be required to understand how many of these relate solely to the Bee Network. For parts 1 and 2 of this FOI a search was carried out on the C04 (robbery & theft from the person) opening code which has revealed over 36,400 records. Each of these will need to be manually trawled through to provide a response. This request will most certainly exceed the time limits laid out in the FOIA.

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.

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 much shorter time frame and with the addition of a few keywords that we can apply to any searches to reduce the volume of located records.

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.

Should you wish to refine and resubmit your request in line with the advice above please respond to freedomofinformation@gmp.police.uk.