

Friday, 15 May 2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016892/J

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016892/J

I write in connection with your request for information dated 14/05/2026, I note you seek access to the following information:

Please provide the following information relating to reported dog theft offences for the financial years 2023/24 and 2024/25 (or the most recent period available), including offences recorded under the Pet Abduction Act 2024 where applicable:

- *The total number of recorded dog theft offences reported during the 2023/24 financial year.*
- *The total number of recorded dog theft offences reported during the 2024/25 financial year.*
- *If recorded, the breed of dog involved in each reported theft offence.*

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police to locate information relevant to your request. I can confirm that the information you have requested is held by Greater Manchester Police.

However, GMP does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format. There is an offence called 'abduction of pet dog/cat' that was introduced mid-2024. The first record with this offence on our system is October 2024, for anything prior to that would need a manual review of all theft offences. From initial searches carried out over 140 thousand records would need to be manually reviewed. In addition, a manual review would be required to determine if the pet abducted during the crime was a dog and the breed. As such, it is anticipated it would take in excess of 18hours to provide the requested information.

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 keep this within the fees limit, the information that you are requesting should be from October 2024 and for total of 'abduction of pet dog/cat'. Any further breakdown information 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.