

Date: 01/05/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/016784/G

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/016784/G

I write in connection with your request for information dated 27/04/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I was hoping you might be able to share some figures and commentary from your force on fuel thefts.

Please would you be able to share:

The number of making off without payment (MOWP) offences recorded so far this year How many of those relate to petrol station fuel drive-offs?

Has there been an increase in these offences - particularly drive-offs - since fuel prices started to surge with the start of the war in Iran?

Clarification - The HO code is 053/25 - making off without payment. Specifically though I'd like these relating to fuel if possible, for the first four full months of 2026, and some comment on whether or not there has been an increase since the invasion of the Iran war on 28/02/2026.

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 the information requested is held by GMP.

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

The information requested is not recorded in the format you have requested specifically for "fuel thefts". Therefore, GMP would be required to conduct a manual review across all the offences recorded under the HO code is 053/25 between 01/01/2026 and 27/04/2026. This search would require trawling through 432 crimes to see how many of them relate to your FOI. At a rate of approximately 7-10 minutes for each review this FOI would take in the region of 50hrs to complete.

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 shorter time frame or the removal of the specifics of theft reported. We do have an option to select "petrol station" flag and this may reduce the volume of crimes however this will still be required to be reviewed.

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.