Information Access Unit
Information Management and Data Directorate

Date: 27/10/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017805/Y

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017805/Y

I write in connection with your request for information dated 07/10/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am only asking for information held in structured fields on your crime recording system (such as offence type, property type, date and location). I am not asking you to read crime reports or free-text notes.

For each calendar year 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025, and for 1 January to 30 September 2026:

1. *The number of recorded crimes where a mobile phone was recorded as stolen property.*
2. *The figures in question 1, split by crime type: robbery of personal property, theft from the person, theft from a vehicle, burglary, and other theft.*
3. *The figures in question 1, split by ward. If ward is not available, please use postcode district or the smallest area you routinely use (such as neighbourhood policing area).*
4. *The figures in question 1, split by month.*
5. *How many of the crimes in question 1 resulted in a charge or summons.*
6. *If recorded in a structured field, the make of phone stolen (for example Apple, Samsung, Google).*
7. *If recorded in a structured field, the type of location (for example street, public transport, licensed premises, event venue).*

8. *If readily available, the figure in question 1 for 2019.*

Please provide the information in a spreadsheet (Excel or CSV).

If answering every question would exceed the cost limit, please answer questions 1 to 3 first and let me know how the remainder could be narrowed, in line with your duty to advise and assist under section 16.

If you do not hold information for any question, please say so and still answer the others.

Where a figure is fewer than five and you consider it could identify someone, please show it as "fewer than 5" rather than withholding the wider table. If any of this information is already published, please send a direct link to the exact dataset.

Result of Searches

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

However, GMP does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format. To provide the data requested would involve a manual search of all robbery, theft and burglary crimes to see if the item stolen was a phone.

A search of our crime records shows that there are over 72,000 residential burglary crimes alone that would have to be manually reviewed. At a very conservative estimate of 5 minutes to locate, retrieve and review each file it would take approximately 6,000 hours to ascertain the data required. Further time would be needed to review all theft and robbery crimes on top of this. 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. 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.