Information Access Unit
Information Management and Data Directorate

Date: 27/10/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017865/K

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017865/K

I write in connection with your request for information dated 14/10/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information from Greater Manchester Police.

Please may you provide me with: the latest information held on crime relating to tool theft in the Greater Manchester Police area between 1st October 2025 and 30th September 2026 (or the most recent 12-month period you have available).

Information should include,
1) Total number of instances of tool theft reported across the year =
2) Total value of tool theft reported across the year =
3) Average value of tools theft reported within the year timeframe =
4) Any additional breakdown of where the tool theft took place (for example, number of thefts from vehicles, number from home, number from a workplace, number from a construction site) =

Please provide the information in electronic format, in either a CSV or Excel file. Alternatively, you can add the figures next to each numbered bullet point above in your reply.

If it is not possible to provide the information requested due to the information exceeding the cost of compliance limits identified in Section 12, please provide advice and assistance, under the Section 16 obligations of the Act, as to how I can refine my request.

If you can identify any ways that my request could be refined I would be grateful for any further advice and assistance.

If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact me via email or phone and I will be very happy to clarify what I am asking for and discuss, my details are outlined below.

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 theft crimes to establish if the item stolen was a tool.

A search of our crime records shows that there are 76,672 records that would have to be manually reviewed. At a very conservative estimate of minutes to locate, retrieve and review each file it would take approximately 6,389 hours to ascertain the data required. 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.