GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE

Date: 28/10/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017899/U

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017899/U

I write in connection with your request for information dated 21/10/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide the following information for the calendar year 2025.

1. The total number of data disclosure requests submitted by your force to the following online platforms in connection with criminal investigations: eBay (including requests submitted via the eBay Law Enforcement eTool / LERT), Vinted, and Meta (specifically relating to Facebook Marketplace).

2. The number of crime reports or intelligence logs recorded by your force where the reporting source or referral originated directly from an online marketplace operator (eBay, Vinted, Meta) regarding suspected listings of stolen property.

3. If your crime recording system allows for keyword searches within summary fields without exceeding the Section 12 cost limit, please provide the number of recorded offences under Section 22 of the Theft Act 1968 (Handling Stolen Goods) where the crime summary or narrative contains any of the following terms: "eBay", "Vinted", "Facebook Marketplace".

If answering all parts would exceed the statutory cost limit, please prioritise answering Questions 1 and 2.

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 some of the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format.

GMP would be unable to respond to this request in full without undertaking a manual review of all crime records where either the crime description or the crime MO contains the terms “eBay”, “Vinted”, or “Facebook Marketplace”. This information is not held in a centrally retrievable format, and a manual review is the only means of identifying and extracting the requested information.

Searches have identified 222 records containing these keywords. In order to determine whether the reporting source or referral originated directly from an online marketplace operator, each record would require individual examination. It is estimated that each review would take approximately 7 to 10 minutes to complete, resulting in a total burden of between 25 and 37 hours. This means compliance with this request would exceed the appropriate cost limit.

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 reduced time frame, or a reduction in the volume of requested information. 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.