Information Management & Data Directorate (IMDD)
Information Access Unit

Date: 25th September 2026
Our ref: FOI/26/017681/E

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: FOI/26/017681/E

I write in connection with your request for information dated 17/09/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

1.Please provide the total number of reported garden centre shoplifting incidents within your jurisdiction for each of the following years: 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026.

2. If recorded, please provide information on the types of items reported stolen during garden centre theft incidents. For example, provide the count of stolen tools, Lego, Jellycats, candles

3. If you have records of the estimated value of the stolen items, please provide this information in aggregated form for each year.

4. Time of Year (Seasonality) of Incidents If the data is accessible, please provide details of the months or seasons in which garden theft incidents were most frequently reported.

Result of Searches

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

Caveats:

In July 2019, GMP implemented one of the largest IT infrastructure changes in UK policing. The systems are in continual development and the data provided for this request is what the systems currently hold.

This dataset contains crimes classified as ‘Shoplifting’ at Crime Tree Level 4, where ‘Garden Centre’ has been selected in the optional Crime MO Category field and with a created date between ’01 January 2023’ and ’21 September 2026’, excluding cancelled crimes and crimes classified as non-counting fraud. Further information about cancelled crimes can be obtained from the Home Office Counting Rules. Details regarding fraud crime can be obtained by contacting the NFIB.

Please note, the MO keywords are not mandatory and may not be completed:

- There may be relevant records missing from our response where this field has not been completed.
- As these are optional fields, an increase or decrease in crime volume where these fields are part of the filtering may not indicate a true increase or decrease of the volume of these crimes, but may reflect a change in usage of this field.

Question 1

Year	Total
2023	17
2024	13
2025	11
2026	6

Question 2

A manual review of the Crime MO Description field has been undertaken to identify the types of items reported as stolen. Please note that the MO Description field is a free-text field and not structured data. As a result, this review can only identify item categories and does not verify the exact quantity, value or specific details of the items stolen. The table below shows each item category identified during the review and the number of crimes in which it is mentioned.

Type of items mentioned within the MO Description	Total
Food/Alcohol	2
Candle	1
Clothing	10
Equipment	7
Furniture	1
Garden Equipment	2
Plants	1
Textiles	1
Tools	1
Toys	3
Unknown	18

Question 3

The information held does not enable an assessment of the approximate value of items stolen. This is because the review is based on a manual examination of the Crime MO description, which do not routinely contain sufficient detail to confirm the precise items, quantity or their individual value. No reliable estimate can be provided as any calculation would be based on assumptions rather than recorded information.

Question 4

Month	Total
January	4
February	1
March	3
April	5

May	4
June	8
July	8
August	6
September	2
October	2
November	2
December	2