

**Date:** 24/09/2026  
**Our ref:** 01/FOI/26/017713/V

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017713/V**

I write in connection with your request for information dated 23/09/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

***Please provide the following aggregate figures for recorded crimes involving a stolen cat in your force area from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2023:***

- 1. How many cat-theft crimes were recorded in each month from January 2019 to December 2023? Please use the date the crime was recorded.***
- 2. For each year, how many were recorded in each theft-location category? Please use your existing categories.***
- 3. For each year, how many had each recorded crime outcome? Please use your existing outcome categories.***
- 4. For each year, what were the totals by breed/type and, separately, by sex of the cat? Please include unknown or unrecorded categories where available.***  
***Please include cat thefts recorded under burglary or robbery as well as theft, where readily identifiable. Aggregate tables are sufficient. Please state if a figure is unavailable and whether the breed and sex totals count cats or crimes.***

**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.

For GMP to be able to provide a response to this request it will require a substantial manual review of all the recorded thefts for the time periods requested. Our systems do not have a searchable field to be able to easily determine what items have been stolen/taken as the Home office offence code for Abduction of pet dog/cat did not come in to force in GMP until October 2024. and so, a review would be the only way to extract this information. For the time frame you have requested, there have been

over 497,000 records logged and so to review each one would far exceed the 18hr permitted to provide this information.

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 to request this information from October 2024 onwards. Anything before this will warrant a review manually. However, 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](mailto:freedomofinformation@gmp.police.uk).

The following link may also be of use - [Published items - Abduction of pet dog/cat | Greater Manchester Police](#)