Information Access Unit
Information Management and Data
Directorate

Date: 14/10/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017739/F

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017739/F

I write in connection with your request for information dated 28/09/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am writing on behalf of the [redacted] to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or, for Police Scotland, the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.
In September 2026 [redacted] sent a survey on motorcycle theft to every Police and Crime Commissioner or equivalent. Several offices replied that the evidence questions are for the force to answer. This request asks the force for that information. The questions keep the survey numbering so the answers can be read alongside it. If you are already handling the survey as an FOI request referred by your Commissioner's office or equivalent, please give me that reference; I am happy for the two to be dealt with together, as long as each question below is answered.
Definitions
- *"Motorcycle" means any powered two-wheeled vehicle, including mopeds and scooters. If your records use a different definition, please say what it is.*
- *"Motorcycle theft" means any recorded offence of theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle (or the equivalent classification in Scotland or Northern Ireland) where the vehicle was a motorcycle.*
- *"2023" and "2025" mean the calendar years 1 January to 31 December.*

Questions
Q2. Motorcycle theft has no Home Office crime classification of its own and is recorded within the general Theft of a Motor Vehicle category. Does your force use any marker, tag, qualifier, internal code or vehicle-type field that allows motorcycle thefts to be identified separately within that category? If so, please describe it and state whether completing it is mandatory.

Q4. Details of any operations, dedicated resourcing or cross-force intelligence-sharing arrangements aimed specifically at motorcycle theft between 1 January 2023 and the date of this request, with approximate dates.
Q5. The number of motorcycle theft offences in which a suspect was identified, in 2023 and in 2025.
Q6. Of the offences in Q5, the number that resulted in a charge for theft, handling stolen goods or conspiracy, rather than taking without consent alone, in 2023 and in 2025.
Q7. The number of stolen motorcycles recovered in 2023 and in 2025. If these figures cannot be produced without a manual review of individual records, please say so.
Q8. A copy of any written policy, protocol or guidance on how officers or the control room respond to a live tracker or GPS activation alert on a stolen motorcycle. If there is no motorcycle-specific version, please provide the one that covers stolen vehicles generally.
Q9. The number of times since 29 June 2026 an officer has authorised a search under section 26A of the Theft Act 1968 (inserted by section 171 of the Crime and Policing Act 2026) in relation to a stolen motorcycle, and a copy of any written policy or training material on the use of that power. If this power does not apply in your jurisdiction, please say so.
Q11. Details of any engagement your force has had on secure motorcycle parking provision since 1 January 2023, with a local authority or otherwise, for example advice from Designing Out Crime Officers or involvement in Park Mark/Safer Parking assessments covering motorcycle parking. If no central record is held, please say so.
How to answer
Please answer each question under its number, giving figures as 2023 / 2025. Where information is not held, please say so against that question rather than leaving it out. A statement that a figure cannot be produced without a manual review of records is a complete answer to that part of the question.
If answering the whole request would exceed the cost limit, please tell me, under your duty to advise and assist, which questions can be answered within it. My order of priority is Q2, Q3, Q7, Q8, Q9, Q5, Q6, Q4, Q11.
I am happy to receive the information electronically.

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 in questions 2, 3, 5 and 6 would involve a manual search of all Theft of Motor Vehicle crimes to see which relate to motorcycles.

A search of our crime records shows that there are 12,695 records 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 1,058 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.

Should you wish to refine and resubmit your request in line with the advice above please respond to freedomofinformation@gmp.police.uk.