



Date: 25/08/2026  
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017206/H

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017206/H**

I write in connection with your request for information dated 08/07/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

*In previous years, we have submitted Freedom of Information requests to police forces across the UK relating to parcel theft. While many forces have been able to provide the data requested others (like your force) have advised they were unable to provide the requested data because parcel theft is not recorded as a standalone offence category or searchable field within their crime recording systems.*

*Before proceeding, we would be grateful if you could confirm whether this position has changed.*

*Q1. Is your force now able to identify reports of parcel theft (i.e. parcels stolen from somebody's doorstep, communal area, designated safe place, or through impersonation of a delivery driver or homeowner) without conducting a manual review of individual crime reports?*

*Yes*

*No*

*Partially (please provide details)*

*If the answer is yes, please let us know and we will submit our standard parcel theft information request.*

*If the answer is no, please answer the following questions instead.*

*Q2. Does your force record parcel theft as:*

*A standalone offence category*

*A searchable incident type*

*A marker or flag attached to offences*

*None of the above*

*Q3. Has your force made any changes within the last three years to how parcel theft incidents are recorded, categorised, monitored or analysed?*

*If yes, please provide details.*

*Q4. Has your force issued any crime prevention advice, public awareness campaigns, social media messaging, press releases or community communications relating specifically to parcel theft within the last three years?*

*If yes, please provide copies, links or summaries where available.*

*Q5. Has your force identified any emerging trends relating to parcel theft during the last three years?*

*For example:*

*Increasing reports*

*Repeat victimisation*

*Organised criminal activity*

*Thefts from apartment blocks or communal areas Seasonal spikes Use of online marketplaces to resell stolen goods Please provide any commentary available.*

*Q6. Has your force undertaken any operational activity, enforcement initiative, partnership programme or crime prevention project aimed at reducing parcel theft within the last three years?*

*If yes, please provide details.*

*Q7. Does your force currently provide specific guidance to residents on how to reduce the risk of parcel theft?*

*If yes, please provide copies, links or summaries.*

*Q8. Does your force work with retailers, delivery companies, local authorities, housing associations, parcel locker companies or other organisations on parcel theft prevention initiatives?*

*If yes, please provide details.*

### **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, I am not obliged to supply you with all the information held as exemptions apply.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Greater Manchester Police, when refusing to provide such information (because this information is exempt) to provide you, the applicant, with a notice which: (a) states that fact, (b) specifies the exemption in question and (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

The information you have requested in questions 5 and 8, and some of the information requested in question 6, is exempt from disclosure by virtue of the following exemption:

**Section 31(1)(a)(b) – Law Enforcement.**

Section 31 is a qualified and prejudice-based exemption and as such, subject to a harm and public interest test.

### **S31(1) - Evidence of Harm**

A Freedom of Information Act request is not a private transaction. Both the request itself and any information disclosed, are considered suitable for open publication. This is because under the Act, any information disclosed is released into the wider public domain, effectively to the world, not just to an individual.

Whilst not questioning the motives of the applicant, providing any further information relating to investigative tactics and prevention strategies used by Greater Manchester Police would reveal our operational capability, which would be of intelligence value to criminals.

Disclosure of intelligence, including intelligence relating to specific types of crime, will mean that those members of the public who are committing crimes and pose a risk to the public, would be able to formulate ways to circumvent or overwhelm GMP's capabilities. If disclosed the tactics used by GMP will become less effective and will mean that the police are not able to detect and prevent crime, apprehend, or prosecute offenders or to administer justice for the wider community.

There is always a duty of care to the public, and GMP has a clear responsibility to ensure the prevention or detection of crime, and the apprehension or prosecution of offenders is always delivered. There are several tactics available to us to ensure the effective delivery of operational law enforcement. In this case, specialist policing activity is required to undertake fair investigations into thefts of parcels where it may be necessary to progress a range of reasonable lines of enquiry.

As such, the disclosure of any further information which would hinder the forces law enforcement functions cannot be in the public interest.

### **Public Interest Test**

Factors favouring disclosure for S31 - Where public funds are being spent, there is a public interest in accountability and justifying the use of public money. Disclosure of the requested information would enable the public to assess whether the force has appropriately taken steps to help reduce and detect theft crimes. Release would enhance public debate as to whether the force is appropriately and effectively engaging with the threat posed by criminals.

Factors against disclosure for S31 - Disclosure that reveals our operational capabilities would compromise law enforcement tactics. Criminals could use the information to target areas of perceived weakness believing that their activities are less likely to be detected. It may be used by criminals who are intent on pursuing their criminal activity, to identify and exploit the limitations of these resources.

To release information relating to operational capacity and intelligence gathering would have a detrimental effect on our policing capabilities. Therefore, to mitigate any risks, disclosure of this information needs to be protected, to ensure that those with intent to do so cannot manipulate it or undermine its purpose in any way.

Any disclosure of information which would compromise law enforcement tactics and thus lead to more crime being committed by reducing the opportunity for the prevention and detection of crime, would therefore increase the risk to public safety, which is not in the public interest.

### **Balancing Test**

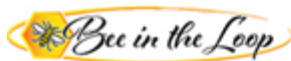
Law enforcement is of paramount importance, and GMP will not disclose information if to do so would undermine its purpose and place the safety of individuals at risk. Whilst there is a public interest in the transparency of using public money in policing appropriately and effectively engaging with the threat posed by criminals, there is a very strong public interest in safeguarding the integrity of police investigations and operations for this type of crime.

As much as there is public interest in knowing that policing activity is appropriate and balanced in matters of law enforcement, this will only be overridden in exceptional circumstances. Any disclosure which hinders our capability and assists criminals cannot be in the public interest.

It is for these reasons that I have determined that the balance test favours non-disclosure of the requested information.

1. No.
2. None of the above.
3. No.
4. GMP has issued the following crime prevention advice, that has been issued over the last few years via press release, and published on the GMP website, social media channels and our community alerts system, Bee in the Loop.

[GMP issue advice for homeowners to prevent stolen doorstep deliveries | Greater Manchester Police](#)



## Advice for homeowners to prevent stolen doorstep deliveries [222787 Administrator copy]

In the build up to Christmas, there has been a number of reports to GMP of **theft** of items left unattended by delivery drivers.

Officers have given advice on how to reduce the risk of being affected by **theft** over the festive period.

**GMP City Centre Neighbourhood Policing Team Inspector Kam Hare said:** "Most delivery companies can provide you with **parcel** tracking options – allowing you or someone else to make sure they are at home for the delivery. If appropriate, delivering it to your place of work can avoid possible thefts.

"If this isn't possible, arrange for your **parcel** to be delivered to a trusted neighbour. If you live in a flat, is there a concierge service who can accept the **parcel** for you?

"Having a Ring or video doorbell installed can be a huge help - this can be connected to your mobile so you are notified immediately of any delivery, and is easier to install than a full CCTV system.

"There has been an increase in the use of an off-site locker service for frequent deliveries, or for expensive items. These **parcel** boxes are more likely to be in busy, safer locations - such as supermarkets - rather than secluded areas which could be targeted by thieves.

"It is important for people to take extra precautions as we edge into the Christmas period. As a force, we can work with **parcel** companies to have an understanding about their delivery policies and ensure that parcels aren't left visible in porches or garages."

Anyone with information about **parcel** thefts or anyone who believes suspicious activity is taking place at premises can call report it online at [www.gmp.police.uk](http://www.gmp.police.uk) or alternatively, contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Throughout the autumn and winter months, our neighbourhood officers will be out in your community conducting high-visibility patrols, executing warrants, and pursuing and arresting offenders that are targeting you, your families, and your homes.

This is part of our Darker Nights campaign, which aims to provide an insight into what the Force is doing to tackle neighbourhood crime, raise awareness of where incidents are taking place, and provide crime prevention and security advice.

← Post



Manchester City Centre Police (GMP)

@GMPCityCentre

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In the build up to Christmas, there has been a number of reports of theft of Parcels left unattended by delivery drivers.

GMP City Centre Neighbourhood Policing Team Inspector Kam Hare advises on how to reduce the risk of being affected by theft over the festive period.



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5. Exempt under S31, see above.
6. Yes, such activity has taken place. Further details are exempt under S31, see above.
7. See response to question 4.
8. Exempt under S31, see above