

Date: 03/09/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017389/D

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017389/D

I write in connection with your request for information dated 05/08/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

1. How many vehicles has your force seized under section 59 of the Police Reform Act 2002 in each of the last five financial years? Please also provide a breakdown by month for the most recent 12 months you hold.

2. How many vehicle defect rectification notices and prohibition notices has your force issued over the same period, broken down by defect type — for example exhaust or silencer, window tint or glazing, lighting, ride height or suspension, and tyres?

For both questions, please state the earliest date from which you hold this data.

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.

GMP would be unable to fully comply with this element of the FOI request without conducting a manual review of hundreds of paper records covering the period from 2020 to August 2025, when the recording of prohibition notices became digital. Each record would need to be individually examined to identify and classify the relevant defect type.

In the last 12 months alone, GMP has recorded 269 prohibition notices. Based on this volume, it is estimated that the time required to locate, retrieve and review the relevant records would exceed the 18-hour cost limit prescribed under the Freedom of Information Act.

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 of 12 months or less for prohibition notices only. 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.

Although excess costs remove GMP's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, as a gesture of goodwill I have supplied some information relative to your request that was retrieved before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded (see below information). I hope that this is of use to you, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fee's regulations for the remainder of your request.

Question 1.

Please note we can only obtain data from 06/04/23 as we did not have our Vehicle Recovery System until 06/04/23. Any data before this period could not be collated in under 18 hours from our old database.

See table overleaf for the required data held.

Date Range	No of Vehicles Seized Section 59 Police Reform Act 2002
06/04/2023 - 31/12/23	93
01/01/2024 - 31/12/24	139
01/01/2025 - 30/06/25	101
01/07/2025 - 31/07/25	9
01/08/2025 - 31/08/25	16
01/09/2025 - 30/09/25	8
01/10/2025 - 31/10/25	13
01/11/2025 - 30/11/25	10
01/12/2025 - 31/12/25	12
01/01/2026 - 31/01/26	13
01/02/2026 - 28/02/26	15
01/03/2026 - 31/03/26	24
01/04/2026 - 30/04/26	12

01/05/2026 - 31/05/26	25
01/06/2026 - 30/06/26	7
01/07/2026 – 31/07/26	44

Question 2.

National Offence Description	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Drive a vehicle when the registration mark fails to conform with regulations	59	86	108	89	83
Drive a vehicle with no registration plate - registered before 1/10/38	0	0	0	0	1
Drive a vehicle with registration mark obscured / indistinguishable	1	0	1	1	4
Drive vehicle / vehicle and trailer no rear registration plate - registered after 30/09/38	0	1	2	0	0
Drive vehicle no front registration plate - registered after 30/09/38	3	1	1	3	2
Fit defective/unsuitable vehicle part	0	0	1	0	0
Keep a vehicle when registration mark fails to conform with the regulations	3	0	7	0	46
Keep a vehicle with registration mark obscured	4	2	1	0	1
Keep vehicle no front registration plate - registered after 30/09/38	3	5	0	0	0
Keep vehicle no rear registration plate - registered after 30/09/38	1	2	0	0	0
Use a motor vehicle - mirrors not fitted	0	0	7	4	2
Use a motor vehicle - windscreen wipers not fitted	0	0	1	0	1
Use a motor vehicle / trailer in a condition likely to cause danger of injury	5	2	2	0	2
Use a motor vehicle / trailer when the rear registration mark was not lit during darkness	0	0	8	0	0
Use a motor vehicle / trailer with defective brakes	1	1	0	1	0
Use a motor vehicle / trailer with incorrectly inflated tyre	1	1	8	10	6
Use a motor vehicle / trailer with tyre with any of the ply / cord exposed	20	14	5	0	0
Use a motor vehicle / trailer with tyre with lump / bulge / tear	1	0	1	0	0
Use a motor vehicle fitted with mixed tyres on front and rear axles	1	1	1	0	1
Use a motor vehicle on a road fail to maintain lamps / reflectors / rear markings / devices in working order / clean	572	618	821	955	716
Use a motor vehicle on a road when there was insufficient transmission of light through the vehicle glass	2	4	1	0	8
Use a motor vehicle on a road with silencer / exhaust system altered to increased the noise made	1	0	0	0	0

Use a motor vehicle on a road without a valid test certificate	3	7	1	3	6
Use a motor vehicle when headlamp not lit in poor visibility / darkness	0	0	20	0	19
Use a passenger vehicle with tyres with insufficient tread - less than 1.6mm	7	4	10	13	9
Use a vehicle on a road obligatory lights not complying with regulation 18	0	0	7	0	0
Use a vehicle on a road with an exhaust system / silencer not maintained in a good and efficient working order	6	5	4	1	5
Use a vehicle on a road without lights at night / in reduced visibility	1	0	0	0	0
Use a vehicle with obligatory lighting equipment not fitted	0	0	1	23	2
Use a wheeled vehicle on a road when the fuel tank was not constructed / maintained to prevent leakage	0	0	0	0	1
Use motor vehicle - material not maintained - seat belt	1	0	0	0	0
Use motor vehicle / trailer - tyre less than 1 mm tread	0	1	1	0	1
Use motor vehicle on a road when the glass was not maintained so as to afford the drivers unobscured vision	21	29	25	8	9
Use motor vehicle on a road when the mirrors fitted to the vehicle did not conform to regulations	16	4	1	0	2
Use motor vehicle on a road when the windscreen wipers did not conforming to regulations	1	1	0	0	1
Use on a road a motor vehicle / trailer in such a condition it caused / was likely to cause danger	5	1	1	0	0
Use on a road a wheeled goods vehicle / trailer not fitted with spray suppression equipment	0	0	0	0	1
Use vehicle without ensuring seals of the recording equipment were intact	1	0	0	0	0

National Offence Description	
	Sept 2025 - Aug 2026
Drive a vehicle when the registration mark fails to conform with regulations	68
Drive a vehicle with registration mark obscured / indistinguishable	2
Drive vehicle no front registration plate - registered after 30/09/38	1
Keep a vehicle when registration mark fails to conform with the regulations	40
Keep a vehicle with registration mark obscured	2
Use a motor vehicle - mirrors not fitted	2
Use a motor vehicle / trailer in a condition likely to cause danger of injury	2

Use a motor vehicle / trailer with incorrectly inflated tyre	4
Use a motor vehicle on a road fail to maintain lamps / reflectors / rear markings / devices in working order / clean	528
Use a motor vehicle on a road when there was insufficient transmission of light through the vehicle glass	3
Use a motor vehicle on a road without a valid test certificate	4
Use a motor vehicle when headlamp not lit in poor visibility / darkness	19
Use a passenger vehicle with tyres with insufficient tread - less than 1.6mm	10
Use a vehicle on a road with an exhaust system / silencer not maintained in a good and efficient working order	3
Use a wheeled vehicle on a road when the fuel tank was not constructed / maintained to prevent leakage	1
Use motor vehicle / trailer - tyre less than 1 mm tread	2
Use motor vehicle on a road when the glass was not maintained so as to afford the drivers unobscured vision	6
Use motor vehicle on a road when the mirrors fitted to the vehicle did not conform to regulations	2
Use motor vehicle on a road when the windscreen wipers did not conforming to regulations	1