

Friday, 04 September 2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017500/K

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017500/K

I write in connection with your request for information dated 21/08/2026, I note you seek access to the following information:

*For each calendar year from **2021 to 2025**, please provide:*

- 1. The total number of **arrests for shoplifting/theft from a shop** recorded by your force.*
- 2. If readily available, the number of **individuals arrested for shoplifting on more than one occasion** during each calendar year.*

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police to locate information relevant to your request. I can confirm that the information you have requested is held by Greater Manchester Police.

However, GMP does not hold the information that you have requested in an easily retrievable format. To provide the data regarding Question 2 would involve a manual search of each arrest records. From initial searches carried out a total of 11,762 records would need to be manually reviewed. As such, it is anticipated it would take in excess of 18hours to provide the requested 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.

Although excess costs remove GMP's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, as a gesture of goodwill (see below information), I have supplied information, relative to your request, that was retrieved / available before it was realised that the fees limit would be

exceed. I trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

Question 1

Caveats

The data contains below CJS codes for relevant offences which were used for the search:

- Aid, abet, counsel, and procure theft from a shop (section 1(1) and (7) TA 1968 and section 8 Accessories and Abettors Act 1861) CJS Code: TH68010B;
- Attempt theft from shop (section 1(1) CAA 1981) CJS Code: TH68010A;
- Conspire to steal from a shop (section 1(1) CLA 1977) CJS Code: TH68010C;
- Theft from a shop (section 1(1) and (7) TA 1968) CJS Code: TH68010

Parameters used for this request:

- Dates 01/01/2021 – 31/12/2025
- Offence Classification: CJSSS Code

Data

2021	675
2022	1634
2023	2238
2024	3465
2025	3750

In this instance, Greater Manchester Police will be unable to provide advice for you to reduce Question 2 of the request in order for the force to keep this within the fees limit in accordance with Section 16(1), the duty to provide advice and assistance, of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.