

Date: 10/09/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017609/W

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017609/W

I write in connection with your request for information dated 07/09/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Please provide data for the period of 1 January 2021 and 31 December 2025 relating to residential burglaries where a key safe, key lockbox, external key box or similar device was recorded as being involved in the attempted or completed burglary.

For the purposes of this request, I am interested in incidents where:

- A. The offender damaged, tampered with or forced open a key safe to obtain a key***
- B. The offender removed, stole or otherwise gained access to a key safe in order to obtain a key***
- C. The offender obtained a key from a key safe and used it, or attempted to use it, to gain entry to the property***
- D. The key safe itself was targeted or tampered with as part of an attempted or completed burglary, regardless of whether the offender ultimately gained entry to the property.***

Where possible, please provide the figures broken down by calendar year:

- 2021***
- 2022***
- 2023***
- 2024***
- 2025***

For the purposes of this request, "key safe/lockbox" refers to an externally located box or safe used to store a key to a property, including devices described as a key safe, key lockbox, external key box or similar.

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 crimes classified as residential burglary for the time periods requested. Our systems do not have a searchable field to be able to easily determine if ***a key safe, key lockbox, external key box or similar device was recorded as being involved in the attempted or completed burglary,*** and so a review would be the only way to extract this information. For the time frame you have requested, there have been over 66,000 records crimes 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 with a reduced time frame. With any request that requires a manual review there is always a chance of a request being refused under S12 due to the enormity of work that is usually needed to provide the data, therefore 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.