

Date: 18/09/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017597/J

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017597/J

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

I am writing to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I ask for the following information held by your force.

For the purposes of this request, "recovered" means an item reported to the force as stolen that subsequently came into the possession of the force.

1. For each calendar year 2023, 2024 and 2025, reported separately, and for each of the following item categories, reported separately:

- a) pedal cycles***
- b) power tools and trade equipment***
- c) cameras***
- d) mobile phones***
- e) laptops and tablets***

please provide:

- i) the number of stolen items recovered by the force***
- ii) the number of those recovered items returned to an owner***
- iii) the number of those recovered items not returned to an owner***
- iv) the number of items at (iii) broken down by recorded reason for non return, including any reason equivalent to owner not identified or ownership not established***

2. Where the force records the disposal of unclaimed recovered property, please provide, for each year and each category above, the number of items disposed of, sold, destroyed or donated.

3. Under Section 11 of the Act, I request the response as a spreadsheet or CSV file. A fixed table format is preferred, with the following exact column headings, so that responses can be compared across forces:

Year | Item category | Items recovered | Items returned to owner | Items not returned | Non return reason: owner not identified or ownership not established | Non return reason: other (please specify) | Disposed of | Sold | Destroyed | Donated

4. If the force does not record reasons for non return, please confirm this and instead supply whatever recovered and returned property figures it does hold, together with a brief description of how recovered property outcomes are recorded.

5. If the force holds this data under different category labels, please supply your nearest equivalent categories and state what those categories are.

6. If you consider that answering this request in full would exceed the appropriate limit under Section 12 of the Act, I would be willing to narrow the request. In that event, please answer as much as the limit allows in the following priority order:

- a) questions 1(i) and 1(ii) for pedal cycles and mobile phones, for 2025 only**
- b) question 1 in full for 2025**
- c) the remaining years and categories**

7. I remind the force of its duty to provide advice and assistance under Section 16 of the Act, and ask that you contact me if any part of this request needs clarification.

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 respond to this FOI without carrying out a manual review. Our systems do not distinguish between stolen/recovered property and property seized for evidential purposes during a police investigation. Therefore, a review would be needed for all theft offences that match this request to determine the items stolen and of these how many returned to the owner, not returned and so on. We have conducted a search using the keywords below for the theft offences created between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2025. This revealed over 68,000 records that would need to be reviewed.

- Cycle
- Bike
- Tool
- Camera
- Mobile
- Phone
- Laptop
- Tablet
- iPad

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 significant revised timeframe and a reduction in the requested information/breakdown required. 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.