

Chief Constable
Chief Constable Robert Carden
Police Headquarters
Carleton Hall Penrith,
Cumbria
CA10 2AU



12th December 2024

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 1059/24 Intimate searches

I refer to your request for information which was received by Cumbria Constabulary on 25th November 2024. I note you seek access to the following information:

For the last three calendar years or 12-month periods ending in 2021, 2022 and 2023, please can you tell me, per year

- 1. How many intimate searches were conducted?*
- 2. How many intimate searches were conducted on biological males?*
- 3. How many intimate searches were conducted on biological females?*
- 4. How many intimate searches were conducted on biological males by biological males?*
- 5. How many intimate searches were conducted on biological males by biological females?*
- 6. How many intimate searches were conducted on biological females by biological females?*
- 7. How many intimate searches were conducted on biological females by biological males?*
- 8. How many intimate searches were conducted on biological females by biological males who identify as women (without a gender recognition certificate)?*
- 9. How many intimate searches were conducted on biological females by biological males who identify as women (with a gender recognition certificate)?*
- 10. How many biological males refused to be intimately searched by a female officer?*
- 11. How many biological females refused to be intimately searched by a male officer?*
- 12. How many biological females refused to be intimately searched by a male officer who identifies as a woman (without a gender recognition certificate)?*
- 13. How many biological females refused to be intimately searched by a male officer who identifies as a woman (with a gender recognition certificate)?*

I am only interested in PACE code C strip search and intimate body search which has been conducted after detention in the custody suite.

Your request for information has now been considered and I can confirm the information you seek is held by Cumbria Constabulary. However, due to the way in which intimate searches are recorded, this would require a manual check of every Custody record for the 3 years requested. The Custody database does not have a function whereby a statistical search for the requested information can be undertaken. I have estimated the time required to identify



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and extract the relevant information for those years will exceed the “appropriate limit” due to the manual opening and checking of every Custody record.

The “appropriate limit” is set out in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 and the current limit for police forces is set at £450, which equates to 18 hours of work.

Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information, if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request will exceed the appropriate limit. In view of this, and in accordance with Section 17(5) of the Act, this letter serves as a Refusal Notice for your request.

Whilst every care has been taken in the retrieval of the information provided, please do not hesitate to contact us for clarification, if you do have any issues or queries relating to this data.

Complaint Rights

Your attention is drawn to the attached sheet, which details your right of complaint. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in Cumbria Constabulary.



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