

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



17th December 2024

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 1069/24 – Hate Crimes committed online or via electronic communications

I refer to your request for information which was received by Cumbria Constabulary on 26th November 2024. I note you seek access to the following information:

Please provide the following information covering the period from January 1st 2016, to June 2024, broken down by year:

1. The number of hate crimes recorded by Cumbria Constabulary that were committed online or via electronic communications, broken down by:

Hate characteristic (race, religion, sexual orientation, disability, transgender identity) Type of offence under the Communications Act 2003 Section 127 or Malicious Communications Act 1988

2. For these online/internet hate crimes:

- The number that led to arrests*
- The number that led to charges being brought*
- The number that resulted in convictions (All broken down by hate characteristic)*

3. For cases that did not lead to charges, please provide:

- The main categories of reasons why no further action was taken*
 - The number of cases in each category*
- (Again broken down by hate characteristic)*

Your request for information has now been considered and I can confirm that Cumbria Constabulary does not hold the information you request in an easily retrievable format.

In order to provide information in relation to Part 2 of your request, would require a manual review of all Custody records in order to identify and retrieve information on arrests relating to Hate Crime and Cyber Crime. Due to the way information is recorded, our Custody database does not have a function whereby searches can be undertaken for statistical data on these flags. Due to the amount of records which require a manual trawl, I am confident that the time required to identify and extract the information will exceed the "appropriate limit".

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.



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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.

As a gesture of goodwill, I can provide information in relation to Part 1 of your request, which was retrieved from our Crime database, before it was realised that the time taken to provide all parts of your request would exceed the limit.

Part 1

Overall number of hate crimes with Cyber flag recorded.

Year	Hate crimes with cyber flag
2016	16
2017	18
2018	34
2019	66
2020	100
2021	71
2022	78
2023	39
2024	25
Total	447

Year	Race	Faith	Homophobic	Disability	Transphobic
2016	8	0	5	3	1
2017	11	4	5	2	3
2018	12	3	8	10	3
2019	31	5	19	10	6
2020	68	10	23	6	2
2021	35	4	14	21	3
2022	27	3	15	24	10
2023	22	0	5	10	2
2024	11	0	4	11	0
Total	225	29	98	97	30

Please note that the total number of crimes with specific strands is different to the overall number of hate crimes as one record can have more than one strand flagged.

Police forces in the United Kingdom are routinely required to provide statistics to government bodies and the recording criteria is set nationally. However, the systems used for recording these figures are not generic, nor are the procedures used locally in capturing the data. It should be noted that for these reasons this force's response to your questions should not be used for comparison purposes with any other response you may receive.



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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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