

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



21st November 2024

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 974/24 – Reported burglary Christmas/New Year period

I refer to your request for information which was received by Cumbria Constabulary on 30th October 2024. I note you seek access to the following information:

Could I be provided with the following information for the Christmas/New Year period (December and January) in your local policing area in 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023:

- 1. The total number of burglary cases reported to your force, broken down by Local Policing Area.*
- 2. The number of burglary cases where something was stolen and there's clear evidence entry was forced, broken down by Local Policing Area.*
- 3. The number of burglary cases where the something was stolen but entry was not forced/violent and therefore the case was dropped, broken down by Local Policing Area.*

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

In order to ascertain the number of cases where an item/items were stolen during the course of the incident would require the investigation notes and associated records to be manually reviewed. This is because it may only become clear if something has been stolen during the course of the incident, and also an item initially thought to be stolen subsequently may be located. This may not have been recorded in the crime notes but recorded in the proceeding investigation. We hold in excess of 350 crime files and based on at the minimum of 5 minutes per record would take at least 30 hours.

This would be a very large amount of work and I have estimated that it would exceed the "appropriate limit" as stated in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. The current limit for police forces has been set at £450, which equates to 18 hours of work. Section 12(1) of the 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 would exceed the appropriate limit.

In accordance with Section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act this section acts as a Refusal Notice for your request, by virtue of Section 12(1) of the Act.



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However, as a gesture of goodwill, I can provide you with information in relation to the total number of burglary cases reported in our force area and the number of burglary cases where entry was forced, broken down by Local Policing Area.

To provide information relevant to your request, searches were undertaken on the Constabulary's Crime recording database for the offence Residential Burglary for the date period 01/01/2021 – 31/01/2024.

Please note in December 2023 due to a change to Home Office definitions of Residential Burglary to include Residential Burglary of an unconnected building, will impact on the data. The Offence of Residential Burglary now includes Garden Sheds, Garages, Outhouses etc.

Table relates to the total number of burglary cases reported to Cumbria Constabulary, broken down by Local Policing Area

Count of Crime Number							
	Dec-21	Jan-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Grand Total
Alston			2				2
Ambleside		1		1	1	2	5
Appleby-in-Westmorland			1	1			2
Askam-in-Furness		1					1
Barrow-in-furness	10	5	12	9	6	9	51
Bowland Bridge	1						1
Bowness-on-Windermere	2				1		3
Brampton	1	1			1		3
Calder Bridge						1	1
Carlisle	24	23	9	20	8	9	93
Carnforth		1	1	2	1		5
Cleator Moor		3	1	1	2	2	9
Cockermouth		1				2	3
Coniston		2			1		3
Distington						1	1
Egremont	1	2			1		4
Frizington	3	1		1	1		6
Grange-over-Sands		7		1			8
Irthington			1				1
Kendal	8	9	2	2	6	5	32
Keswick	1	2					3
Kirkby Stephen	3			1			4
Maryport	3	2	2	1	3	4	15
Millom		2		1			3



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Milnthorpe		2	2	1			5
Penrith	2	3	1	5	1	3	15
Port Carlisle				1			1
Seascale	1						1
Ulverston		2	2	2	2	2	10
Whitehaven		3	1	5	1	3	13
Wigton	2		1	1	1	1	6
Windermere	2	2	2	1	1		8
Winton			1				1
Workington	6	9	10	4	5	7	41
Grand Total	70	84	51	61	43	51	360

Table relates to the number of burglary cases where method of entry is forced. Where the summarised MO is not clear whether force was used, we have defaulted to no, where access is presumed to have been as a result of an insecure building window, door etc.

Count of Crime Number							
	Dec-21	Jan-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Grand Total
Ambleside		1			1	1	3
Appleby-in-Westmorland			1	1			2
Barrow-in-furness	6	3	4	2	3	5	23
Bowness-on-Windermere	2				1		3
Brampton					1		1
Carlisle	6	11	2	8	4	3	34
Carnforth		1	1	2	1		5
Cleator Moor		3		1	1		5
Cockermouth		1				1	2
Coniston		2					2
Distington						1	1
Frizington	3	1		1			5
Grange-over-Sands		6		1			7
Irthington			1				1
Kendal	2	7			4	3	16
Keswick		1					1
Kirkby Stephen	1			1			2
Maryport	1	2	1	1	1	2	8
Milnthorpe		2	1	1			4
Penrith	1	1		4		3	9



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Port Carlisle				1			1
Ulverston		1	2			2	5
Whitehaven		1	1		1		3
Windermere		2	1		1		4
Winton			1				1
Workington	3	1	4		3	6	17
Grand Total	25	47	20	24	22	27	165

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.

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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