

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



21st November 2024

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 979/24

I refer to your request for information received by Cumbria Constabulary on the 31st of October 2024. I note you seek access to the following information:

We are requesting the following data for the year 2023:

- 1. How many stop and search encounters took place in the area?*
- 2. How many police officers were present at every encounter?*
- 3. In addition to data for question 2, please provide data sorted by grounds, object and purpose of the search, legal power used, police outcome, action taken/sanction (if applicable), offence (if applicable), as well as the gender, age and ethnicity of the person stop and searched.*

Your request for information has now been considered and I can confirm that Cumbria Constabulary does not hold the information you have requested in an easily retrievable format. Pre 2021 the Constabulary's stop and search recording system allowed officers to state how many other officers were present during the search. The Constabulary's current system only allows officers to list those officers who were the primary searching officer of each individual searched, with the option of listing two additional officers who were present. "Additional officers" is not mandated for completion and the system currently used is unable to process this data to provide a figure. Therefore, to locate and retrieve all the information you seek in question 2 it would be necessary to undertake a manual review of all stop and search records within the period requested, of which there are 7879.

I have estimated that the time required to complete a manual review to locate and extract all information relevant to your request would significantly 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 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 would 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, by virtue of Section 12(1).



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However, as a gesture of goodwill and in keeping with the duty to provide advice and assistance under Section 16 of the Act, I can provide you with some information which has been retrieved within the 18hour limit. This information is provided below.

Question 1- *How many stop and search encounters took place in the area?*

7879

Question 3-

I can advise you that the information requested is already in the public domain and can be found on the police.uk website by following this link [Data downloads | data.police.uk](#).

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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