

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



26th November 2024

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 980/24 Child strip searches

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

- 1. Please can you provide me with the number of child strip searches (under 18) between ethnic groups (white, black, Asian, mixed race, and other) that occurred between 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 (as of 31 October)*

Your request for information has now been considered and I can confirm Cumbria Constabulary does hold information relevant to your request and I have today decided to disclose this to you.

On receipt of your request, searches were undertaken on the Constabulary's stop search and custody databases for recorded strip searches of children under 18, for the date parameters 01/01/2021 – 31/10/2024.

In relation to stop search data, as there is no flag in the system in which to record if a stop search involved a strip search, the data provided below has been based upon the flag 'IsClothingRemoved' and searches for keywords 'strip search, all clothing, all, full search or intimate' contained within the 'Reason for Arrest' free text field. Extracted reports were manually reviewed for relevancy.

Please note: A keyword search may not accurately identify all information held by the Constabulary, as the non-mandatory recording fields used to obtain the information are manually completed by officers at the time of recording for this reason, although provided in good faith, the information may not be wholly accurate.

It should also be noted that the seizure of clothing for evidential purposes is counted as a strip search and therefore the figures provided below may include arrests of juveniles for offences which have required the seizure of clothing.

Number of custody records where age at arrival is less than 18 and 'Has strip search' is 'True' between 01/01/2020 - 31/10/2024 showing breakdown of ethnic groups



EMPLOYER RECOGNITION SCHEME

BRONZE AWARD

Proudly supporting those who serve.



Year						
Ethnic Group	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
Asian	1	1	1			3
Black	3	2	4	3	1	13
Not Stated				1		1
White	22	17	19	20	32	110
Total	26	20	24	24	33	127

Number of stop searches involving strip search where age at search is under 18 between 01/01/2020 - 31/10/2024 showing breakdown of ethnic groups

Year						
Ethnic Group	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
White	0	4	1	1	2	8
Black	0	2	2	1	0	5
Not Stated	0	0	0	1	1	2
Total	0	6	3	3	3	15

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.

If you have any further queries regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me again.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in Cumbria Constabulary.



EMPLOYER RECOGNITION SCHEME

BRONZE AWARD
Proudly supporting those who serve.

