

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



13th March 2025

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 220/25 Dogs Seized

I refer to your request for information received by Cumbria Constabulary on 17th of February 2025. I note you seek access to the following information:

- 1. Please provide the number of S1 dogs you seized between February and September 2024.*
- 2. Please provide the number of dogs you kennelled in each month between February 2024 to September 2024.*
- 3. Please provide the total amount you spent kennelling dogs in each month between February 2024 to September 2024.*
- 4. Please provide the total amounts you spent on (i) food and (ii) care in respect of kennelled dogs in each month between February 2024 and September 2024.*
- 5. Please provide the names of all businesses/organisations you used to kennel dogs between February 2024 and September 2024.*

Your request for information has been considered and I can confirm that Cumbria Constabulary does hold some of the information you request. Where information is held in relation to outsourced external kennels for question 5, I will be citing the following exemptions:

Section 31 (1) (a) (b) Law Enforcement

Section 38 (1) (a) (b) Health & Safety

As Section 31 and Section 38 are qualified and prejudice-based exemption, I am required to evidence the harm and apply the public interest test.

Overall Harm

Every effort should be made to release information under Freedom of Information. However, a FOIA response is a release to the world, as once the information is published, the public authority has no control over what use is made of that information.

The disclosure of the names of businesses/organisations Cumbria Constabulary use to kennel dogs would provide sufficient information for individuals with malicious intent to target the kennels. Consideration must be made that a disclosure is made to the world at large, and for example the kennels may be targeted by those intending to secure the return of their dog,



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during ongoing investigations. Furthermore, the health and safety of any kennel staff/owners is a matter of significant concern and importance to Cumbria Constabulary. Release of any information could endanger the safety of those who work at the kennels, if threats/intimidation were made and the wider public's safety, should dangerous dogs be released back into the communities prior to any court proceedings.

Public Interest Test:

Factors favouring disclosure under Section 31 and Section 38 - Release of the information would promote openness and transparency, which lead to a better-informed public.

Factors favouring non-disclosure Section 31 - Disclosure of the information requested may provide individuals with the necessary information to target the kennels, committing crime and releasing dangerous dogs. This would require police officers to be deployed, causing law enforcement resources to be compromised and jeopardizing ongoing investigations.

Factors favouring non-disclosure Section 38 - The release of any information could lead to identification of kennel staff where stray and seized dogs are held, thus consequently endangering the safety and security of an individual.

Balancing Test

The Police Service is tasked with protecting the community we serve and solving crime and there is a public interest argument in ensuring we are open and transparent. However, when weighed against the safety risks of kennel staff and wider members of the public alongside the disclosure potentially undermining the ability to bring offenders to justice, it is our opinion that the balance lies in favour of non-disclosure of the information.

The information in response to questions 1-4 has been provided by the Constabulary's Dog Section and Finance department.

Answers

Question 1 –

33 - This is the number of dogs that were suspected to be a S.1 dog at the time they were seized.

Question 2 –

Feb – 24

Mar – 29

Apr – 24

May – 30

Jun – 42

Jul – 42

Aug – 41



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Sep – 38

Question 3 & 4 –

Please note that the information requested in questions 3 & 4 is not recorded separately therefore the information provided below relates to kennelling costs, food, and any vet care needed whilst in kennels.

Feb 24 - £8,250.00

Mar 24 - £8,805.00

Apr 24 - £14,495.00

May 24 - £16,110.87

Jun 24 - £17,454.95

Jul 24 - £23,950.20

Aug 24 - £27,969.17

Sep 24 - £24,501.83

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

If you believe your request has not been properly handled, or you are otherwise dissatisfied with the outcome of your request, you have the right to request an internal review.

In the first instance, please email freedomofinformation@cumbria.police.uk quoting the FOI reference number and explain why you are dissatisfied. Your complaint will be considered and a response will be provided to you after your complaint has been investigated.

If you remain dissatisfied following conclusion of the internal review, you have the right, under section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to complain directly to the Information Commissioner.

The address for the Information Commissioner can be found below:

The Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Complaints to the Information Commissioner can also be made online:

[Make a complaint | ICO](#)



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



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