

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



13th March 2025

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 233/25 Drugs Operations

I refer to your request for information received by Cumbria Constabulary on 19th February 2025. I note you seek access to the following information:

1. In the target period from 1.1.24 to 31.12.24 how many times has your force carried out a targeted operation to see if drugs have been present at either a (i) licensed premises or (ii) a football stadium.

By this I mean an operation to check if drug residues have been left behind at a building or facility indicating that drug taking has gone on at the venue at some date in the past.

2. If so please state the (i) venue where the tests were carried out, (ii) the area within the venue where the tests were carried out and (iii) details of the types of drugs that were detected/or if no drugs were detected.

Your request for information has been considered and I can confirm that Cumbria Constabulary does not hold the information you have requested in an easily retrievable format. The information requested in question 2 is not recorded in a way in which the information can be easily located and extracted. Between September – November 24, 55 visits were conducted to venues in Westmorland and Furness. To locate the information requested in question 2 this would require extensive searches of the constabulary's intelligence recording system in relation to the 55 venues visited.

I have estimated that the time required to review the relevant associated records will 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).

In accordance with the duty under Section 16 of the Act (duty to provide advice and assistance), I regret to say that on this occasion I am unable to offer you any advice or assistance to help you to refine your request so that the time required would be within the "appropriate limit".



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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](#)

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



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