

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



17 April 2025

Dear

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 385/25**

I refer to your request for information which was received by Cumbria Constabulary on 31 March 2025. I note you seek access to the following information:

***I would like to know, between the years 2014 and 2024, how many Motability vehicles were seized by your police force after they were used, or they were suspected to have been used, in criminal activity. Could you please break down the statistics by year, eg, how many in 2014; 2015...***

***If possible, could you also please provide a breakdown of the nature of each offence involving Motability vehicles. Eg, theft; assault.***

***Motability vehicles are cars given to eligible claimants in exchange for their disability benefits. I understand that cars which are seized are then taken back by Motability so there should be records of all Motability vehicles involved in criminal activity.***

Your request for information has now been considered and I can confirm the information you seek is held by Cumbria Constabulary. However, for this information to be extracted it would require a manual review of every crime in order to ascertain whether a vehicle was registered with the Motability Scheme. This information would also be dependent on the owner advising us that the vehicle does fall within the Motability Scheme and therefore any information held may not be a true and accurate number.

I have estimated the time required to extract the relevant information required will exceed the "appropriate limit" as this would require a manual review of all relevant entries.

The "appropriate limit" is set out in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 and 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 will 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.

In accordance with my duty under Section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act, 2000 (Duty to provide advice and assistance), I have tried to think of a way to recommend that your request



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may be refined to bring it under the limit explained above. At this time, unfortunately, I have no suggestions, due to the way that the information requested is recorded.

### 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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