

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



3 April 2025

Dear xxxxxx

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 325/25

I refer to your request for information received by Cumbria Constabulary on 15 March 2025. I note you seek access to the following information:

A full list of Cumbria Police Constabulary suppliers, contractors maintenance providers. The data must contain contact names, company names, phone numbers, email addresses, and the value of the contract.

Your request for information has now been considered and I can confirm Cumbria Constabulary does hold information relevant to your request, however, the time required to locate and retrieve all of the requested information will exceed the “appropriate limit”.

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.

This is the case because not all of the requested information is contained within central contracts register and it would be necessary to review files relating to each contract in order to extract all of the information you have requested. There are currently in excess of 250 contracts recorded within the register. I have estimated that the time required to manually review each of these contracts and associated records, to locate and extract all relevant information, will significantly exceed the 18hour limit. Based on a conservative estimate of 10 minutes to review each contract, to locate and extract relevant information, I have estimated it would take in excess of 100 hours to locate and retrieve all of the requested information, for the 250 contracts referred to above.

Having reviewed your request it appears you are seeking information about all contracts, irrespective of value. Currently, not all contracts under a set threshold are recorded within the contracts register and therefore additional time would also be required to locate and retrieve the requested information about contracts not recorded within the register.

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.

I have considered if it is possible to provide you with advice and assistance to help you to refine your request, however, due to the number of contracts I am unable to offer any meaningful assistance that would result in the disclosure of all of the contractual information you are seeking. I can, however, advise you details of contracts over £10,000 are



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published on the Bluelight e-procurement hub. Whilst the published information may not contain all of the information you are seeking, I hope you will find this information will still be of interest to you. I have below provided a link to the relevant page on the website of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Cumbria from where you can access the Bluelight portal to obtain details of the published contracts.

Contracts and Spending - Cumbria PFCC

Even if it was possible to locate and retrieve all relevant contractual information within the 18 hour limit, it is likely that other exemptions would apply to at least some of that information, due to the time which would be required to review and redact information (as the time required to do this isn't included within the "appropriate limit" of 18 hours), or where a contract relates to the supply of an operationally sensitive tool or service, and the disclosure of information would, or would be likely to prejudice law enforcement, or would involve the disclosure of commercially sensitive information.

I can advise you that a Procurement Strategy is held by the Constabulary for the period 2023-2026 and, subject to exemption considerations, it may be possible to disclose some information from this Strategy, if you wish to submit a revised request. Should you wish to do so, please submit your revised request to: freedomofinformation@cumbria.police.uk

I can further advise you that the Constabulary's Commercial Department is responsible for contracts. The email address for this department is: CommercialDept@cumbria.police.uk

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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