

T/Chief Constable
T/Chief Constable Darren Martland
Police Headquarters
Carleton Hall Penrith,
Cumbria
CA10 2AU



18th August 2025

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 1174/25 Spyware

I refer to your request for information which was received by Cumbria Constabulary on 5th August 2025. I note you seek access to the following information:

1. For the past 10 years, please share the number of reports received by the police where a victim suspects hidden spyware, AKA stalkerware, has been installed on their device by someone else, in order to track their location or monitor their activity.

Please include search results for any of the following phrases:

'stalkerware', 'spyware', 'mSpy', and 'tracking app'.

- a) 2015
- b) 2016
- c) 2017
- d) 2018
- e) 2019
- f) 2020
- g) 2021
- h) 2022
- i) 2023
- j) 2024
- k) 2025 – latest available data

2. Of the reports in Q1, how many of the victims were aged under 25?

- a) 2015
- b) 2016
- c) 2017
- d) 2018
- e) 2019
- f) 2020
- g) 2021
- h) 2022
- i) 2023
- j) 2024



EMPLOYER RECOGNITION SCHEME

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

The information provided was extracted from Cumbria Constabulary's crime recording system. A keyword search was conducted using the terms:

- Stalkerware
- Spyware
- mSpy
- Tracking

Please note: A keyword search may not accurately identify all information held by the Constabulary. If, for example, the words were recorded in a different field, or if another name or term was used, any such records would not be identified by the keyword search which has been undertaken.

A manual review was then carried out and only those where it is stated that spyware or a tracker has been downloaded to a phone or placed in a vehicle have been included - not those where only 'tracking' was stated or where tracking via social media has taken place. Data from 2019 onwards has been taken as we no longer provide data from 2018 and before.

Question 1.

Volume of crimes where tracking software or a tracking device has been used to stalk the victim's location, broken down by year.

Year	Total
2019	3
2020	3
2021	2
2022	5
2023	3
2024	5
2025	2

Question 2.

Of these crimes, the total where the victim of the offence was aged under 25 years old.

Year	Total
2019	1
2020	0
2021	0
2022	0
2023	0
2024	2
2025	0

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.



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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](#)

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



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