

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



30th July 2025

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 715/25 Speeding Offences

I refer to your request for information which was received by Cumbria Constabulary on 11th July 2025. I note you seek access to the following information:

- 1. Please could you provide the number of speeding offences recorded by mobile speed cameras in your force area between January and June 2023, broken down by month.*
- 2. Additionally, I would be grateful for any recorded mentions in your incident logs or officer notes involving squirrels — particularly where squirrels have caused, witnessed or otherwise influenced road traffic offences between January and June 2023, broken down by month.*

While I understand this may fall outside your standard keyword filtering, I believe there is an emerging pattern of squirrel interference in high-speed driving zones, possibly coordinated.

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.

Question 1

The number of speeding offences recorded by mobile speed cameras in Cumbria between January and June 2023, broken down by month.

January - 986

February - 1317

March - 1345

April - 1270

May – 1397

June. – 1548

Question 2

When referring to this question it would not be possible to answer this in the way it has been asked. It is possible that it may be an error or mistype however the nature of the request is not valid nor makes sense. A squirrel cannot provide a witness statement to an incident therefore cannot be classed as 'witnessing' a road traffic offence nor would this be known to police. If this was not a typo, we would look into possibly engaging Section 14 of the FOIA as it may be classed as vexatious.



EMPLOYER RECOGNITION SCHEME

BRONZE AWARD

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If we were to presume that you would like to request information on statistical data on an animal causing a road traffic collision (such as a vehicle swerving out of the way of said animal in the road), then it would be possible to review the data. However, whether a squirrel was present or involved in an incident is not recorded within a set field within an incident log and this means the information cannot be retrieved automatically. Therefore, that question itself would incite an exemption S.12 meaning it would be exempt on cost grounds, and we would not be able to provide an answer.

In order to retrieve data, it would be necessary to manually review all traffic offences and incidents recorded over the time-period specified in your request. Due to the large number of traffic offences received by the Constabulary, the time required to manually review and extract information relating to squirrels, unfortunately, far exceed the appropriate limit making it exempt under Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act.

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.

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.

