

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



11th August 2025

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 733/25 Asylum Seeker Arrests

I refer to your request for information which was received by Cumbria Constabulary on 17th July 2025. I note you seek access to the following information:

Since 2020, please provide the figures for:

- a. Number of illegal migrants/asylum seekers arrested*
- b. Number of illegal migrants / asylum seekers arrested for sex crimes*
- c. Number of illegal migrants/ asylum seekers arrested for crimes against children*

2. Since 2020, please provide the figures for:

- a. Number of police brutality claims*
- b. Number of false arrests*
- c. Number of false imprisonment*

Your request for information has now been considered and I can confirm the information you seek may be held by Cumbria Constabulary. However, to answer your request this information is not available in an easily retrievable format as we do not have a mandatory field within our systems for "Asylum/Migrant". Therefore, this would require a manual search of all arrest record data within the time period requested which is in excess of 14,000 records. This information would then need to be manually checked to establish if "Asylum/Migrant" was mentioned.

In addition, to facilitate the request for question 2a, a search was conducted on Cumbria Constabulary's system in relation to Complaint cases for years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2024. However, this pulled just under 600 cases and every allegation would have required a manual search to check if it was relevant to this request which would exceed the appropriate limit.

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.



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Notwithstanding the above, in anticipation it will still be of interest to you, it is possible to provide you with some of the information requested in the remaining questions, as it was possible to retrieve this information directly. This is information I would otherwise have advised you to submit a revised request to seek disclosure of in accordance with the duty to provide advice and assistance.

A separate search was undertaken on the system between 01/01/2020 and 31/12/24 using keyword searches falsely imprisoned, false imprisonment, falsely arrested and false arrest.

Question 2b

The number of false arrests were 6.

Question 2c

The number of false imprisonments were 3.

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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