

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



13th August 2025

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 763/25 Roadside Breath Tests

I refer to your request for information which was received by Cumbria Constabulary on 23rd July 2025. I note you seek access to the following information:

Please could you provide the following data for your police force area:

- 1. The total number of roadside breath tests conducted in each of the past three calendar years (2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 so far if available), broken down by month or quarter if possible.*
- 2. The number of drivers who tested positive or failed a breath test in each of those years.*
- 3. If available, a breakdown of breath tests conducted by local authority area, town, or policing sector within your jurisdiction.*
- 4. The top 5 locations (towns/areas/postcodes) where the highest number of drink driving offences were recorded over the past three years.*
- 5. Any available demographic breakdown (e.g. age group and gender) for individuals who:*
 - o Were stopped and breathalysed, and*
 - o Failed a breath test or were charged with a drink driving offence, in the above time period.*

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.

Please note: The information provided was extracted from Cumbria Constabulary's handheld breath test devices. The data for 2025 is not yet available.

The total number of roadside breath tests conducted in 2022 and the number of drivers who tested positive or failed a breath test in this year.

Month	Total tests	Positive or Refused
Jan	315	40
Feb	287	32
Mar	265	31
Apr	343	31
May	339	43
Jun	316	50
Jul	340	43



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Aug	287	30
Sep	276	21
Oct	349	22
Nov	331	43
Dec	777	58
Total	4225	444

The total number of roadside breath tests conducted in 2023 and the number of drivers who tested positive or failed a breath test in this year.

Month	Total tests	Positive or Refused
Jan	481	48
Feb	368	40
Mar	423	56
Apr	411	36
May	316	30
Jun	264	29
Jul	305	44
Aug	405	38
Sep	266	26
Oct	512	33
Nov	398	35
Dec	398	13
Total	4547	428

The total number of roadside breath tests conducted in 2024 and the number of drivers who tested positive or failed a breath test in this year.

Month	Total tests	Positive or Refused
Jan	515	36
Feb	329	24
Mar	346	41
Apr	394	40
May	399	49
Jun	454	50
Jul	298	34
Aug	415	37
Sep	478	54
Oct	464	40
Nov	445	19
Dec	1021	51
Total	5558	475

Questions 3 and 4.

There is no location data available to answer these questions. Location data is not consistently recorded as it is an optional field therefore a sufficient answer cannot be provided.



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However, this data is collected annually for the Home Office data return, which is published at the end of each year in the Police Powers and Procedures, the latest available can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/police-powers-and-procedures-roads-policing-to-december-2023>.

Question 5.

Demographics for failed or refused breath tests.

Gender & Age Group	2022	2023	2024	Grand Total
Female	75	81	95	251
17-21	4	6	5	15
22-26	8	9	2	19
27-30	11	4	15	30
31-35	5	8	8	21
36-40	9	12	13	34
41-45	5	11	9	25
46-50	12	7	15	34
51-55	8	10	8	26
56-60	6	6	10	22
61-65	3	2	4	9
66-70	4	3	1	8
70+		3	5	8
Male	303	279	303	885
Under 17	2			2
17-21	21	36	36	93
22-26	48	37	33	118
27-30	38	29	40	107
31-35	47	40	45	132
36-40	51	38	39	128
41-45	18	23	32	73
46-50	30	25	17	72
51-55	12	22	24	58
56-60	19	13	15	47
61-65	7	8	16	31
66-70	8	4	3	15
70+	2	4	3	9
Grand Total	378	360	398	1136

Please note: Demographic data has been provided for individuals who failed a road side breath test, not for individuals charged (which may not correlate as expected due the requirement for evidential testing to be completed whilst in custody, road side breath tests are considered as preliminary and allows an individual to be arrested on positive/ refused result; also an individual will not normally be charged under section 4 of RTA 1988 if there is evidence sufficient to prove an offence contrary to section 5. A number of test records held no information for gender/age.



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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.

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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