

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



10th December 2025

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 1502/25 Wide Area Network Services

I refer to your request for information which was received by Cumbria Constabulary on 12th November 2025. I note you seek access to the following information:

Please address each section individually and, where multiple suppliers exist, provide information separately for each.

Contract 1 – Wide Area Network (WAN) Services (Including HSCN)

15. WAN Provider(s)

Please confirm the main supplier(s) for your WAN services. If this information is not available, please explain why.

16. Contract Expiry Date

Please provide the expiry date for each WAN contract (DD/MM/YYYY or MM/YYYY acceptable). If rolling, please state the terms.

17. Contract Description

Please provide a brief summary of the scope of each WAN contract.

18. Number of Sites Covered

Please indicate the number of sites supported by the WAN. An approximation is acceptable.

19. Annual Average Spend

What is the annual average spend for WAN services? Please break this down by provider if more than one.

20. Procurement Route

Please provide details of how each WAN contract was procured. If a framework was used, please include the framework name and reference number.

Internal Contact

21. Responsible Contact Person(s)

Please provide the full contact details for the person(s) responsible for each of the above contracts, including:

- Full name
- Job title
- Direct phone number
- Email address

If full details cannot be provided, the job title alone is acceptable.

Your request for information has now been considered, and I can confirm Cumbria Constabulary does hold information you request; however, I will be citing the exemption Section 31 (1) to questions 15, 16,17, and 18 of your request.



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Section 31 (1) (a)(b), Law Enforcement.

Section 31(1)(a) exempts information if its disclosure would or would be likely to prejudice the prevention and detection of crime.

As a qualified and prejudice-based exemption, I am required to evidence the harm and apply the public interest test.

Evidence of Harm

Every effort should be made to release information under Freedom of Information. However, a FOIA response is a release to the world, as once the information is published, the public authority has no control over what use is made of that information.

The Police Service is charged with enforcing the law, preventing and detecting crime, and protecting the communities we serve. To achieve these objectives, all forces rely on Wide Area Network (WAN) services that underpin secure communication and data transfer across policing operations. Disclosure of the Constabulary's WAN contract details including supplier names, contract descriptions, expiry dates, and associated terms would expose critical information about the network infrastructure. This could highlight vulnerabilities and compromise individual force information assurance.

Revealing such details would enable malicious individuals to identify which suppliers and technologies are in use, assess contract lifecycles, and exploit potential gaps during renewal periods. This intelligence could assist those intent on disrupting police networks, including organised criminals or terrorist organisations. In terms of duty of care, disclosure would be detrimental to public safety, as it could facilitate targeted attacks on areas perceived as vulnerable, leading to disruption of WAN services and compromising the effective delivery of operational law enforcement. This, in turn, could result in increased criminal activity.

With regard to the information requested in question 18, disclosure of the number of sites covered could reveal tactical capability and vulnerabilities from area to area, which could be of intelligence value to those intent on pursuing criminal activity.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring disclosure – Disclosing WAN contract details could allow the public to be better informed about procurement practices and ensure transparency in the use of public funds. It would demonstrate that forces are securing competitive contracts and maintaining efficient services for taxpayers, satisfying audit and accountability requirements.

Factors favouring non-disclosure – Whilst there is public interest in transparency, there is a stronger public interest in safeguarding the security and resilience of police networks. Disclosure of WAN contract details could enable malicious individuals to exploit known vulnerabilities in specific technologies or target forces during contract transition periods. This could lead to the loss of confidentiality, integrity, and availability of police information, undermining operational capability and jeopardising the daily running of policing activity. The risk of affecting the function of the police service would be significant. Furthermore, revealing supplier names and contract specifics provides intelligence to those who would wish to exploit weaknesses in the service, ultimately hindering the prevention and detection of crime or terrorism.

Disclosing information relating to numbers of sites supported by the WAN could give criminals insight into the strengths of the Constabulary or any potential weaknesses that may exist. This information could be used by criminals intent on pursuing criminal activity and could



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compromise law enforcement tactics. The potential disruption and damage caused would be detrimental to the Constabulary's ability to prevent and detect crime, apprehend offenders, and safeguard the public, which would not be in the public interest.

Balance Test

The security of the country is of paramount importance, and the Police service will not divulge any information, if to do so would undermine law enforcement and therefore compromise the work of the police service. Whilst there is a public interest in the transparency of policing and force infrastructure, including the Police WAN Services, there is a very strong public interest in safeguarding the integrity of these systems in place.

The points above highlight the merits for and against disclosure of the requested information. Disclosure would undoubtedly provide a greater openness and transparency to the community at large regarding the WAN resources available to the police, and whilst there is always a public interest in the transparency of how a police force delivers effective law enforcement, there is a very strong public interest in safeguarding the intricacies and tactical capabilities of the services used when dealing with information.

I am aware of the immense importance for Public Authorities to demonstrate a level of openness and transparency, I believe protecting the tactical capability of Cumbria Constabulary must take precedence in this case. It is my decision that the balance of the public interest lies in the non-disclosure of the exempted information.

The response to questions 19, 20, and 21 is provided below. This information has been provided by the Constabulary's Commercial department.

Question 19

The annual average spend for WAN Services is £205,500.

Question 20

The WAN contract/s were procured using Further competition Framework RM6116.

Question 21

Contact details are as follows:

Commercial Department at Cumbria Constabulary

Email: CommercialDept@cumbria.police.uk

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:



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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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