

Chief Constable
Chief Constable Robert Carden
Police Headquarters
Carleton Hall Penrith,
Cumbria
CA10 2AU



27th January 2025

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 27/25 Motor Fraud

I refer to your request for information received by Cumbria Constabulary on the 7th of January 2025. I note you seek access to the following information:

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I have heard of a scam where scammers pose as potential buyers, visit a car in person, distract the seller and sabotage the car to ask for the car at a lower price. I have seen that Surrey Police have mentioned this as part of their April 2024 Newsletter: <https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.surrey.police.uk%2Fpolice-forces%2Fsurrey-police%2Fareas%2Fcampaigns%2Fcampaigns%2F2024%2Ffraud-newsletter---april-2024-edition%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cfreedomofinformation%40cumbria.police.uk%7Cb56102b54ef6496e5b4c08dd2f35a548%7C7ea6412da8874942951ccd722827b11a%7C0%7C0%7C638718629652970352%7CUnknown%7CTWfPbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWU%7C%7C%7C&sdata=8ZATm2V4T9Bs0ZU0CbjkSFXzvMVJ8v24sPRYFm18AYA%3D&reserved=0>

Please may you provide me with:

- 1. Is the above type of scam something your force have seen reports of during 2024 (1st January 2024 - 31st December 2024)?*
- 2. How many cases of this type of fraud were reported to your force, between:*
 - a) 1st January 2024 - 30th June 2024*
 - b) 1st July 2024 -31st December 2024*

(if you are not able to provide figures between this window, please provide 1-year stats for the 2024 year, or 1 year and the date range they apply for)

- 3. Therefore, have you seen an increase/decrease in this type of fraud in the year 2024 compared to the previous year? (1st January 2023 - 31st December 2023 vs 1st January 2024 - 31st December 2024)?*
- 4. How many cases of motor fraud were reported to your force between:*
 - a) 1st January 2024 - 30th June 2024*
 - b) 1st July 2024 - 31st December 2024*

(if you are not able to provide figures between this window, please provide 1-year stats for the 2024 year, or 1 year and the date range they apply for)

- 5. Therefore, have you seen an increase/decrease in motor fraud in the year 2024 compared to the previous year? (1st January 2023 - 31st December 2023 vs 1st January 2024 - 31st December 2024)*



EMPLOYER RECOGNITION SCHEME
BRONZE AWARD
Proudly supporting those who serve.



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 in response to your request has been extracted from the Constabulary's crime recording system. A key word search using the term 'vehicle' has been used when searching the offences of fraud reported between 01/01/23 – 31/12/2024.

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

Answer-

Number of scams where scammers pose as potential buyers, visit a car in person, distract the seller and sabotage the car to ask for the car at a lower price

Year	Months	Total
2023	Jan - Jun	0
	Jul - Dec	0
2024	Jan - Jun	0
	Jul - Dec	1

Cases of motor fraud i.e. where the offence was grouped as 'fraud' and 'vehicle' was mentioned within the crime notes

Year	Months	Total
2023	Jan - Jun	12
	Jul - Dec	10
2024	Jan - Jun	8
	Jul - Dec	13

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.



EMPLOYER RECOGNITION SCHEME

BRONZE AWARD
Proudly supporting those who serve.



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.



EMPLOYER RECOGNITION SCHEME

BRONZE AWARD
Proudly supporting those who serve.

