

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



17th January 2025

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 2/25 Stolen dogs

I refer to your request for information received by Cumbria Constabulary on the 1st of January 2025. I note you seek access to the following information:

1. *How, if at all, has the process for recording stolen dogs (under the Theft Act) to abducted dogs (under the Pet Abduction Act) changed in 2024?*
2. *What were the total number of dog theft crimes in 2024 (monthly breakdown if possible)?*
3. *What was the outcome (charge/summons, community resolution, active investigation, evidential difficulties, no suspect identified) for each dog theft crime in 2024?*
4. *How many dogs were listed with each dog theft crime in 2024?*
5. *If this question doesn't take us beyond the time required for free FOI feedback, can details about stolen dog breed, gender, age, and location of theft (walk, home, garden, outside shop, from car etc) also be provided for 2024 please?*
6. *If this question doesn't take us beyond the time required for free FOI feedback, can postcode of recorded crime and CRN be included?*

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 question 1 has been provided by the Constabulary's Standards Insight and Performance Department.

Question 1- *How, if at all, has the process for recording stolen dogs (under the Theft Act) to abducted dogs (under the Pet Abduction Act) changed in 2024?*

From 24th August 2024, Cumbria Constabulary has been recording the abduction of dogs in line with the new legislation within the Pet Abduction Act. Recording under the Theft Act is still available and used as per national guidance because where there is an intention to



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permanently deprive the owner of the pet, then the recording of a Theft Act crime is more appropriate.

The information provided in response to questions 2-6 has been extracted from the Constabulary's crime recording system.

Question 2- What were the total number of dog theft crimes in 2024 (monthly breakdown if possible)?

Month	Crimes
Jan-24	1
Feb-24	2
Mar-24	4
Apr-24	1
May-24	3
Jun-24	2
Jul-24	1
Aug-24	3
Sep-24	4
Oct-24	1
Nov-24	5
Dec-24	1

Question 3- What was the outcome (charge/summons, community resolution, active investigation, evidential difficulties, no suspect identified) for each dog theft crime in 2024?

Month	OC14	OC15	OC16	OC18	OC21	OC8
Jan-24		1				
Feb-24				2		
Mar-24			3		1	
Apr-24		1				
May-24			1	1		1
Jun-24				2		
Jul-24			1			
Aug-24			2	1		
Sep-24		2	1	1		
Oct-24			1			
Nov-24	1	1	1	2		
Dec-24		1				
Total	1	6	10	9	1	1



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Question 4- How many dogs were listed with each dog theft crime in 2024?

Month	1	2	3	4
Jan-24		1		
Feb-24	1		1	
Mar-24	4			
Apr-24	1			
May-24	3			
Jun-24	2			
Jul-24	1			
Aug-24	2			1
Sep-24	4			
Oct-24	1			
Nov-24	5			
Dec-24	1			
Total	25	1	1	1

Question 5- If this question doesn't take us beyond the time required for free FOI feedback, can details about stolen dog breed, gender, age, and location of theft (walk, home, garden, outside shop, from car etc) also be provided for 2024 please?

Please note that the N/A category is where the information requested is not recorded or clear within the crime notes.

LOCATION									
Month	Field	Garden	House	Kennel	N/A	Shed	Stable	Street	Vehicle
Jan-24			1						
Feb-24				1			1		
Mar-24			2		2				
Apr-24		1							
May-24		1	1			1			
Jun-24				1				1	
Jul-24					1				
Aug-24	1		1		1				
Sep-24			1		3				
Oct-24					1				
Nov-24		1	1		2				1
Dec-24					1				
Total	1	3	7	2	11	1	1	1	1



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GENDER		
Month	Female	N/A
Jan-24		1
Feb-24		2
Mar-24	1	3
Apr-24		1
May-24		3
Jun-24		2
Jul-24		1
Aug-24		3
Sep-24		4
Oct-24		1
Nov-24		5
Dec-24		1
Total	1	27

BREED															
Month	Cocka poo	Cocker Spaniel	French Bulldog	German Shepherd	Husky	Jack Russell Terrier	Labrador	Lurcher	Lurcher X Stafford shire Bull Terrier	N/A	Rottweiler	Spaniel	Staffordshire Bull Terrier	Terrier	XL Bully
Jan-24												1			
Feb-24		1												1	
Mar-24									1	1			1		1
Apr-24										1					
May-24					1	1					1				
Jun-24			1										1		
Jul-24						1									
Aug-24			1		1			4							
Sep-24				1						2			1		
Oct-24										1					
Nov-24	1						1			1	2				
Dec-24	1														
Total	2	1	2	1	2	2	1	4	1	6	3	1	3	1	1

Question 6- If this question doesn't take us beyond the time required for free FOI feedback, can postcode of recorded crime and CRN be included?

Month	(blank)	CA1	CA11	CA14	CA2	CA22	CA25	CA28	CA6	CA7	CA8	LA14	LA9	PR2
Jan-24												1		
Feb-24									1	1				
Mar-24				1								1	2	
Apr-24						1								
May-24				1	2									
Jun-24		1						1						



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Jul-24										1				
Aug-24	1		1	1										
Sep-24		1			1								1	1
Oct-24											1			
Nov-24		1			1		1	1					1	
Dec-24								1						
Total	1	3	1	3	4	1	1	3	1	2	1	2	4	1

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:

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I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in Cumbria Constabulary.



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