

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



11th February 2025

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 71/25 – Tool Thefts

I refer to your request for information which was received by Cumbria Constabulary on 16th January 2025. I note you seek access to the following information:

- 1. The number of tool marking events that your police force has supported in the following calendar years: 2024 and 2023?*
- 2a. How many suspected stolen tools has your police force seized and/or catalogued in the following calendar years: 2024 and 2023?*
- 2b. How many of these tools has your police force manage to reunite with their owners in the following calendar years: 2024 and 2023*
- 3. How many arrests has your police force made for offences relating tool theft in the following calendar years: 2024 and 2023?*

Your request for information has been considered and I can confirm that Cumbria Constabulary does not hold all the information you request in an easily retrievable format.

To provided information for Question 3, a manual review of arrests relating to all thefts would need to be undertaken to ascertain if the property stolen was classed as 'tools'. Our custody and arrest database does not have a designated field in which a statistical search can be performed for this information, and therefore it would be necessary to read through every individual Custody record for theft offences to identify and extract the data. Due to the amount of records which would require a manual trawl, I am confident that the time required to extract the relevant information for those years will exceed the "appropriate limit".

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.

As a gesture of goodwill, I can however provide you with information for Question 2 of your request, which could be retrieved from the Constabulary's Crime and Property databases. This data was extracted from the seized property register, using filters to search for 'tool' and seized from 'offender'. Each result was then manually checked against the crime to determine if the seized tool was related to the theft.



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Answer

Q2 (a) - number of recorded crimes linked to stolen property seized

Distinct Count of Crime Number	Year		
	2023	2024	Total
Burglary – Business and community	2	3	5
Other Theft		1	1
Residential Burglary of a Home		3	3
Residential Burglary of Unconnected Building	1	2	3
Shoplifting	2		2
Theft By An Employee	1		1
Theft From A Vehicle		1	1
Total	6	10	16

Q2 (b) Of 49 tools recorded (from a total of 16 record entries) in seized property with confirmed theft or burglary crimes recorded, 26 items have been returned currently (from a total of 5 record entries)

Year	Items seized	Items Returned
2023	14	6
2024	35	20
Total	49	26

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

Your attention is drawn to the attached sheet, which details your right of complaint.
I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in Cumbria Constabulary.



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