

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



20th December 2024

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 1084/24 Claims made against the force

I refer to your request for information received by Cumbria Constabulary on 28th of November 2024. I note you seek access to the following information:

1. *In the past 5 years, how many claims have been made against the police force? (Between March 31 - April 1) Broken down by years 2019/2020, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24.*
 - 1a. *Can this be broken down by reason for the claim (i.e. traffic accident, assault, wrongful arrest, sexual misconduct, property damage etc.)*
2. *Can you provide the number and cost of such claims closed (or settled with a periodical payment order) between financial years 2019/20, 2020/21, 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24 with a damages payment?*

Your request for information has now been considered and I can confirm that Cumbria Constabulary does not hold the information you have requested in an easily retrievable format. To locate and retrieve all the information you seek it would be necessary to undertake a manual review of all legal claims made within the 5-year period requested, of which 272 legal claims have been made. A manual review is required as without opening each file it is not always clear what the claim is for without investigating the incident thoroughly. In addition to this the cost of each claim could only be identified through a manual review of the records.

I have estimated that the time required to complete a manual review of 272 files to locate and extract all information relevant to your request would significantly exceed the “appropriate limit”, as stated in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. 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 would 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, by virtue of Section 12(1).

In accordance with the duty under Section 16 of the Act (duty to provide advice and assistance), I regret to say that on this occasion I am unable to offer you any advice or



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assistance to help you to refine your request so that the time required would be within the “appropriate limit”.

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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