

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



15th January 2025

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 1148/24 Offences in churches

I refer to your request for information received by Cumbria Constabulary on the 30th of December 2024. I note you seek access to the following information:

1. *How many crimes have been recorded by your force involving theft from/at churches or from/at church property from January 1 2022- December 30 2024?*
 - a) *If possible, please could you clarify how many of the thefts recorded relate to lead being taken from the church roof?*
2. *How many crimes have been recorded by your force involving assault (physical/violent) at churches or on church property from January 1 2022- December 30 2024?*
3. *How many crimes have been recorded of vandalism by your force on churches or on church property from January 1 2022- December 30 2024?*

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 provided in response to your request has been extracted from the Constabulary's crime recording system. The offence groups of 'Arson and Criminal Damage', 'Theft' and 'Violence Against the Person' have been used for the search. A key word search using the term 'church' has also been undertaken and the results have been manually reviewed to only include reports relevant to your request. Additionally all records where premise name had Church in the name but did not relate to religious building have been removed.

Please note: A keyword search may not accurately identify all information held by the Constabulary. If, for example, the word 'church' 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.

Question 1-



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Theft Offences	Number of reports
Offences Under The Theft Act, 1968, Section 1, Not Classified Elsewhere.	26
Removal Of Articles On Show From Places Open To The Public.	3
Stealing In A Dwelling Other Than From Automatic Machines And Meters.	1
Stealing Pedal Cycles	2
Grand Total	32

Question 1a-

Theft Offences	Number of reports
Offences Under The Theft Act, 1968, Section 1, Not Classified Elsewhere.	1

Question 2-

Violence against the person	Number of reports
Assault or assault by beating of a constable.	5
Assaults Occasioning Actual Bodily Harm.	29
Common Assault And Battery.	30
Non-fatal strangulation and suffocation	1
Racially / religiously aggravated assault occasioning actual bodily harm	1
Wounding Or Inflicting Grievous Bodily Harm (Inflicting Bodily Injury With Or Without Weapon).	1
Wounding, &C, With Intent To Do Grievous Bodily Harm, &C., Or To Resist Apprehension.	3
Grand Total	70

Question 3-

Arson and Criminal Damage	Number of reports
Arson Not Endangering Life	3
Other Criminal Damage	1
Other Criminal Damage to a Building other than a Dwelling valued under £5000	41
Other Criminal Damage to a Dwelling valued under £5000	1
Other criminal damage to a vehicle valued under £5000	11
Other Criminal Damage, Other valued under £5000	19
Grand Total	76

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.



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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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