

Chief Constable
T/Chief Constable Darren Martland
Police Headquarters
Carleton Hall Penrith,
Cumbria
CA10 2AU



16 July 2025

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 655/25

I refer to your request for information which was received by Cumbria Constabulary on 23 June 2025. I note you seek access to the following information:

Specifically, could you provide:

The total number of officers nationally (or in Cumbria, if national figures are not available) who have entered policing via the Police Constable Entry Programme (PCEP).

The total number of serving police officers (nationally and/or for Cumbria specifically) who do not currently hold a Level 6 qualification (e.g., Bachelor's degree or equivalent).

To locate and retrieve all the information you seek in Question 2 it would be necessary to undertake a manual review of all Police Officer records to see which officers do or do not hold a Level 6 qualification.

There are currently over 1,300 Police Officers employed by Cumbria Constabulary therefore I have estimated that the time required to complete a manual review 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).

However, as a gesture of goodwill and in keeping with the duty to provide advice and assistance under Section 16 of the Act, I can provide you with some information which has been retrieved within the 18-hour limit.

In relation to Question 1, there have been 54 Police Officers join Cumbria Constabulary on the PCEP route, and 28 Police Officers join the Constabulary on the PCEP DC route.

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



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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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