

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



25th July 2025

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 672/25 Illegal e-bike incidents

I refer to your request for information which was received by Cumbria Constabulary on 27th June 2025. I note you seek access to the following information:

1. *The number of illegal / non-compliant e-bikes that have been seized by your police force in each of the past five calendar years?*

Please also include:

- *A breakdown by year, please include: 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024.*

2. *The number of reported incidents of phone snatching or muggings in which an illegal or non-compliant e-bike was used as part of the offence, recorded over the past five calendar years.*

Please also include:

- *A yearly breakdown of such incidents, please include: 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024.*

3. *The number of fines and/or arrests made in connection with the use, possession, or operation of illegal e-bikes over the past five calendar years?*

Please also provide:

- *A yearly breakdown of the number of fines and arrests, please include: 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024.*

Your request for information has now been considered and I can confirm the information you seek is held by Cumbria Constabulary. However, due to the way in which the data is recorded, I have estimated the time required to extract the relevant information for those years will exceed the "appropriate limit" as this would require a manual review of all relevant entries.

We do not have a recordable field in the crime recording system that would associate a suspect's mode of transport to a crime type. This may have been recorded in free text portions of crime notes but without sufficient consistency to give any meaningful result that would warrant a key word search and manual review. In addition to this we do not understand what would constitute an 'illegal / non-compliant' e-Bike.

There have been 400 Robberies and 360 Theft from Person offences in the last 3 years alone. Each offence would need to be manually reviewed to determine if they were a theft/snatch offence, then see if there is a mode of transport for suspects recorded.

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.



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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.

In accordance with my duty under Section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act, 2000 (Duty to provide advice and assistance), I have tried to think of a way to recommend that your request may be refined to bring it under the limit explained above. At this time, unfortunately, I have no suggestions, due to the way that the information requested is recorded.

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:

[Make a complaint | ICO](#)

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



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