

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



30th July 2025

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 685/25 Strangulation Offences

I refer to your request for information which was received by Cumbria Constabulary on 1st July 2025. I note you seek access to the following information:

1. Please provide the total number of recorded strangulation offences [Domestic Abuse Act (2021, section 70) and the Serious Crime Act (2015, section 75A)] from 7th June 2024-6th June 2025 (inclusive), with the below details (as many as are recorded on your systems) for each case:

- a. Victim sex and gender
- b. Victim age
- c. Victim ethnicity
- d. Victim disability
- e. Suspect sex and gender
- f. Suspect age
- g. Suspect ethnicity
- h. Suspect disability
- i. Relationship between victim and suspect
- j. Context of the strangulation offence
- k. Any additional offences at the time of the strangulation offence
- l. Whether these cases are domestic abuse-flagged
- m. Whether these cases are part of a rape or serious sexual offence investigation
- n. Police assigned outcome and additional rationale where available

2. Please also provide as many of the above details (a-n) as possible for any additional cases involving non-fatal strangulation, where this has been flagged/ featured within an alternative offence but not recorded specifically as an offence of strangulation.

I have estimated the time required to extract the relevant information required will exceed the “appropriate limit” as this would require a manual review of all relevant entries.

A victim or suspect’s ethnicity and/or disability is not always recorded in our crime recording system. In some cases this is not deemed relevant or necessary, however in some cases it may be logged in the free text section of the investigation details. The context of each strangulation offence would also be in a free text section. This means that to acquire the information you have requested, it would require a manual review of records relating to every strangulation investigation in the timeframe given which is at least 250 records. I believe this would take longer than the appropriate limit.



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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.

Notwithstanding the above, in anticipation it will still be of interest to you, it is possible to provide you with some of the information requested in the remaining questions, as it was possible to retrieve this information directly. This is information I would otherwise have advised you to submit a revised request to seek disclosure of in accordance with the duty to provide advice and assistance.

The information provided below has been extracted from the Constabulary's Crime Recording system and relates to crimes recorded for the offences specified in your request.

1a. Sex/gender of victim.

Sex of Victims	Distinct Count of Report URN
(blank)	6
Female	194
Male	54
Grand Total	254

Please note: It is not a mandatory requirement to record both the Sex and Gender (Identity) of persons. We have introduced into our Crime System the function to do so but at this time there is insufficient distinction to provide a meaningful result for Gender Identity. Prior to March-25 Gender identity may have been recorded as Sex. This data is therefore based on the premise of 'Sex'. Blank data is where this has not been recorded.

1b. Age of victim at time of the crime.

Age Grouping	Distinct Count of Report URN
Under 18	36
18-24	34
25-34	60
35-44	68
45-54	33
55-64	19
65+	5
Grand Total	254

1e. Sex/gender of suspect/offender.

Sex of Suspects/Offenders	Distinct Count of Report URN
(blank)	16



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Female	29
Male	211
Unknown	2
Grand Total	254

Please note: It is not a mandatory requirement to record both the Sex and Gender (Identity) of persons. We have introduced into our Crime System the function to do so but at this time there is insufficient distinction to provide a meaningful result for Gender Identity. Prior to March-25 Gender identity may have been recorded as Sex. This data is therefore based on the premise of 'Sex'. Blank data is where this has not been recorded.

1f. Age of suspect/offender at time of the crime.

Age Grouping	Distinct Count of Report URN
Under 18	21
18-24	22
25-34	80
35-44	63
45-54	30
55-64	20
65+	7
Unknown	14
Grand Total	254

1i. Relationship between victim and suspect/offender.

Relationship	Distinct Count of Report URN
(blank)	129
Acquaintance of	3
Associate of	1
Child of	11
Child of significant other	3
Criminal associate of	1
Ex-spouse of	9
Friend of	2
Half-brother of	1
Heterosexual ex-partner of	21
Heterosexual partner of	35
In dispute with	7
Medical professional of	2
Neighbor of	1
Other sexual relationship	1
Otherwise known	3



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Related to	1
Sibling of	5
Significant other of	1
Spouse of	20
Stranger of	2
Grand Total	254

1k. We are unable to provide data on additional offences that occurred at the same time as a Primary Offence, but in anticipation it will still be of interest, the data provided below relates to crimes recorded where the strangulation element is either the primary offence or the keyword strangulation is recorded within the initial modus operandi of the crime.

Offence Classification	Distinct Count of Report URN
Other Sexual Offences	
020/03 - Assault on a female by penetration	2
Rape	
019/07 - Rape of a female aged under 16	1
019/08 - Rape of a female aged 16 or over	4
Stalking and Harassment	
008/67 - Engage in controlling/ coercive behaviour in an intimate/family relationship	8
Violence with Injury	
008/06 - Assault occasioning actual bodily harm	2
008/77 - Non-fatal strangulation and suffocation	235
Violence Without Injury	
105/01 - Common assault and battery	2
Grand Total	254

1l. The distinct count of domestic abuse flagged offences is 186.

1n. Home Office Outcomes

Offence Classification	Distinct Count of Report URN
(blank)	44
1 - Charged or Summoned	37
11 - Named Suspect Identified - Suspect Below Age of Criminal Responsibility	2
12 - Named Suspect Identified - Suspect too ill or died before crime was reported to police	2
14 - Named Suspect NOT identified - Evidential Difficulties: Victim Declines or Unable to Support	4
15 - Named Suspect Identified - Evidential Difficulties: Victim Supportive	23
16 - Named Suspect Identified - Evidential Difficulties: Victim NOT Supportive	107



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17 - Prosecution time limit expired: Suspect identified but prosecution time limit has expired.	1
18 - Investigation Complete - Crime Investigated as far as reasonably possible	11
1A - Charged or Summonsed - Relates to an Alternative Offence to that Recorded	9
20 - Further Action by Another Body or Agency	4
22 - Diversionary, educational or intervention activity undertaken (Pathways / deferred prosecution)	4
3 - Cautioned - Adult	1
3A - Cautioned Adult - Relates to an Alternative Offence to that Recorded	2
8 - Community Resolution	3
Grand Total	254

Please note: Blank Outcomes are Open/Pending Investigations as at the time of Data Extraction.

Part 2 – See response to 1k.

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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