

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



2nd May 2025

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 432/25 Stalking and harassment offences

I refer to your request for information received by Cumbria Constabulary on the 8th of April 2025. I note you seek access to the following information:

- 1. The total number of stalking and harassment offences cases your police force has dealt with per financial year, for the past five years. Please display the total case numbers for stalking and harassment separately.*
- 2. The total number of stalking and harassment cases in which a physical tracking device was used. This can include an AirTag, SmartTag, Tile, GPS tracker, car tracker. Please display the total case numbers for stalking and harassment separately, and provide this information per financial year, for the past five years.*
- 3. The total number of stalking and harassment offences in which a digital tracking device was used. This can include a social media tracker, Life360, phone App tracker. Please display the total case numbers for stalking and harassment separately, and provide this information per financial year, for the past five years.*
- 4. The total number of controlling / coercive behaviour cases your police force has dealt with per financial year, for the past five years.*
- 5. The total number of controlling / coercive behaviour cases in which a physical tracking device was used. This can include an AirTag, SmartTag, Tile, GPS tracker, car tracker. Please provide this information per financial year, for the past five years.*
- 6. The total number of controlling / coercive behaviour cases in which a digital tracking device was used. This can include a social media tracker, Life360, phone App tracker.*

Please provide this information per financial year, for the past five years.

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. The information requested in questions 2,3,5 and 6 is not systematically recorded, therefore a manual review of all the cases outlined in the response to questions 1 and 4 would be required, of which there are 27,550 cases.

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



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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 18hour limit. This information is provided below.

Question 1 –

FY Year Name	Distinct count
FY 2020/21	4947
FY 2021/22	5834
FY 2022/23	5795
FY 2023/24	4645
FY 2024/25	4727

Question 4 –

FY Year Name	OffenceSubGroup2	Distinct count
FY 2020/21	Controlling or Coercive Behaviour	332
FY 2021/22	Controlling or Coercive Behaviour	247
FY 2022/23	Controlling or Coercive Behaviour	327
FY 2023/24	Controlling or Coercive Behaviour	345
FY 2024/25	Controlling or Coercive Behaviour	351

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



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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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