

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



9th May 2025

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 443/25 CSE cases

I refer to your request for information received by Cumbria Constabulary on the 14th of April 2025. I note you seek access to the following information:

- a) The number of cases with a 'CSE flag' applied for the calendar years 2020 - 2024.*
- b) A breakdown by ethnicity of perpetrators for those cases applied a CSE flag.*
- c) The number of "live" group-based CSE investigations led by your force for the years 2020 - 2024, including those progressing through the criminal justice system. "Group based", in this context, means those crimes involving two or more offenders. If possible, broken down by the number of individuals in each "group"/gang.*
- d) The number of safeguarding referrals received 2020 - 2024 for children because of sexual exploitation concerns.*
- e) The number of Child Abduction Warning Notices (CAWN) issued to adults 2014 - 2025, and a breakdown by ethnicity of those presented with one.*

Your request for information has now been considered and I can confirm Cumbria Constabulary does hold not hold the information you have requested in an easily retrievable format. To locate and retrieve all the information you seek in question c it would be necessary to complete a manual review of all live cases with a 'CSE' flag to establish if groups were involved. In addition to this, with regards to question e the constabulary do not hold this information prior to 2021 in an easily retrievable format, therefore this would also require a manual review of all cases with a CSE flag from 2014-2020.

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 18hour limit. This information is provided below.



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Question A –

The number of crimes with the IsChildSexExploitation flag applied, between 01/01/2022 - 31/12/2024

Year	Total
2020	96
2021	156
2022	226
2023	227
2024	379
Grand Total	1084

Question B –

Please note that some of the crimes above do not have any offenders linked to them which is the reason that the number of offenders is lower than the number of crimes.

The 'offenders' of the above crimes, broken down by ethnicity

Ethnicity	Total
Asian - Any Other Asian Background	1
Not Stated	19
White - Any Other White Background	4
White - British	145
Grand Total	169

Question D –

Please note that the closest tag to sexual exploitation concerns within a safeguarding report is 'IsChildSexualActivity' so the use of this tag may not relate to child sexual exploitation.

The number of safeguarding referrals between 01/01/2020 - 31/12/2024 with the IsChildSexualActivity tag

Year	Total
2020	4
2021	21
2022	27
2023	17
2024	13



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Grand Total	79
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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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