

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



8 May 2025

Dear XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 463/25

I refer to your request for information received by Cumbria Constabulary on 22 April 2025.
I note you seek access to the following information:

1. Please tell me, with reference to each of the last four financial years (21/22) (22/23) (23/24) and (24/25), the number of:

- a) Substance misuse tests undertaken at random on your force's officers (not civilian staff).*
- b) Substance misuse tests administered with cause on your force's officers (not civilian staff)*
- c) Substance misuse tests given on a pre-employment basis to people applying to be a police officer with your force.*
- d) The number of positive tests to the number of tests undertaken in total for (a), (b) and (c).*

2. Please break down 1d (the number of positive tests) by:

- a) The drug detected (e.g. cannabis, cocaine).*
- b) The disciplinary measures resulting (e.g. final warning, dismissed, job offer withdrawn).*
- c) Whether the substance misuse test was given at random, with cause or on a pre-employment basis.*

NOTE: For pre-employment tests, I do not require that you break down the number of positives by substance detected.

Your request for information has now been considered and I can confirm Cumbria Constabulary does hold information relevant to your request and I have today decided to disclose this to you.

Please note :-

For questions 1 (a) and (b) our records for drugs testing only extend back to August 2022, so we cannot provide any data for 21/22, and only partial data for 22/23

1. Please tell me, with reference to each of the last four financial years (21/22) (22/23) (23/24) and (24/25), the number of:



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a) Substance misuse tests undertaken at random on your force's officers (not civilian staff).

FY 22/23*	40
FY 23/24	38
FY 24/25	54
* 22/23 data only runs from 01/08/2022	

b) Substance misuse tests administered with cause on your force's officers (not civilian staff)

FY 22/23*	3
FY 23/24	6
FY 24/25	2
* 22/23 data only runs from 01/08/2022	

c) Substance misuse tests given on a pre-employment basis to people applying to be a police officer with your force.

FY 22/23	149
FY 23/24	103
FY 24/25	106

d) The number of positive tests to the number of tests undertaken in total for (a), (b) and (c).

Nil

2. Please break down 1d (the number of positive tests)

No positive tests so N/A

Police forces in the United Kingdom are routinely required to provide statistics to government bodies and the recording criteria is set nationally. However, the systems used for recording these figures are not generic, nor are the procedures used locally in capturing the data. It should be noted that for these reasons this force's response to your questions should not be used for comparison purposes with any other response you may receive.



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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

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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