

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



15th May 2025

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 479/25 Deaths and Injuries of walkers

I refer to your request for information received by Cumbria Constabulary on the 25th of April 2025. I note you seek access to the following information:

REQUEST 1:

Could you please supply me with the following information concerning deaths and injuries of walkers in the Lake District in 2024.

- 1. Can you inform me of the number of known deaths in the Lake District during 2024.*
- 2. Of these can you break the deaths down via location e.g Ambleside, Grasmere*
- 3. Of these can you inform me of the mountain they died climbing e.g Scafell Pike, Helvellyn*
- 4. Of these can you provide the age, ethnicity, nationality*
- 5. Can you inform me of the number of walkers who have been injured in the Lake District during 2024.*
- 6. Of these can you break the injuries down via location e.g Ambleside, Grasmere*
- 7. Of these can you inform me of the mountain they were injured climbing e.g Scafell Pike, Helvellyn*
- 8. Of these can you provide the age, ethnicity, nationality*

REQUEST 2:

Could you please supply me with the following information concerning deaths and injuries of walkers in the Lake District in 2024.

- 1. Can you inform me of the number of known deaths in the Lake District over the past 10 years from 2014 - to most recent (2025).*
- 2. Of these you break the deaths down via location e.g Ambleside, Grasmere - over the past 10 years from 2014 - to most recent (2025).*
- 3. Of these can you inform me of the mountain they died climbing e.g Scafell Pike, Helvellyn - over the past 10 years from 2014 - to most recent (2025).*



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4. Of these can you provide the age, ethnicity, nationality - over the past 10 years from 2014 - to most recent (2025).

5. Can you inform me of the number of walkers who have been injured in the Lake District during 2024 - over the past 10 years from 2014 - to most recent (2025).

6. Of these you break the injuries down via location e.g Ambleside, Grasmere - over the past 10 years from 2014 - to most recent (2025).

7. Of these can you inform me of the mountain they were injured climbing e.g Scafell Pike, Helvellyn - over the past 10 years from 2014 - to most recent (2025).

8. Of these can you provide the age, ethnicity, nationality - over the past 10 years from 2014 - to most recent (2025).

Your request for information has now been considered and I can confirm Cumbria Constabulary does not hold the information you have requested in an easily retrievable format. Reported incidents of death have only been recorded in the Constabulary's crime recording system since 2021, and they have only become a nationally recorded requirement from the Home Office since April 2024. In addition to this, to locate all incidents relating to injuries which are relevant to your request, this would require a manual review of a large volume of data which would be returned from our searches.

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.

Please note that many of the reported incidents of death do not give detail of what activity was being carried out, the data provided are not solely 'walkers' some may have been climbing, biking, running, paragliding etc in the fells.

Total number of reported incidents of unexpected deaths with location recorded within Lake District Boundary occurring in countryside location

Location	Year					Grand Total
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
Fell	3	6	1	13	2	25
Ambleside		1		1		2
Blencathra				1	1	2
Borrowdale		1		2		3
Buttermere	1			1		2
Ennerdale		1		1		2
Glenridding				2		2
Grizedale				1		1
Keswick	1	1		2		4



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Langdale				1	1
Seathwaite			1		1
Stonethwaite	1				1
Wasdale		2	1	1	4
Lake		3		3	1
Bassenthwaite Lake		1			1
Dubwath				1	1
Grasmere					1
Hartsop		1			1
Keswick				1	1
Watermillock		1			1
Windermere				1	1
Other	1			5	6
Ambleside	1				1
Boot				1	1
Keswick				4	4
Grand Total	4	9	1	21	3
					38

Number of unexpected deaths within Lake District boundary where the location is described as outside of urban or domestic environment showing detail of location where this is recorded

Count of CrimeNumber	Year					Grand Total
Location	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Grand Total
Fell	3	6	1	13	2	25
Blencathra				1	1	2
Helvellyn	1			3		4
Heron Crag	1					1
Not Recorded	1	1		3	1	6
Pavey Ark		1				1
Pillar		1		1		2
Raven Crag		1				1
Robinson				1		1
Sargeant Man				1		1
Scafell Pike		2	1	2		5
Skiddaw				1		1
Lake		3		3	1	7
Alcock Tarn					1	1
Bassenthwaite		1		1		2
Brothers Water		1				1
Not Recorded				1		1
Ullswater		1				1
Windermere				1		1
Other	1			5		6
Hardknott Pass				1		1
Lamplugh					1	1
Marshes Derwent				1		1
Not Recorded				1		1
Rothay Park	1					1
Whinlatter				2		2
Grand Total	4	9	1	21	4	39



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Total number of incidents recorded within the Lake District boundary with a mountain rescue tag under the incident type 'Concern for safety/Collapse/Illness Injury/Trapped'.

Please note there are too many records to confirm how many of these involved fells (mountain rescue teams)

It is also worth noting that some incidents where a member of the public has injured themselves on the fells may have been recorded under alternative incident types such as 'Missing Person'.

Incident Type	Year												Grand Total
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	
CONCERN FOR SAFETY/COLLAPSE/ILLNESS INJURY/TRAPPED	356	375	349	381	371	300	302	359	355	410	459	119	4136
Grand Total	356	375	349	381	371	300	302	359	355	410	459	119	4136

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.

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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