

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



8 May 2025

Dear XXXXXXXX

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 485/25

I refer to your request for information received by Cumbria Constabulary on 27 April 2025. I note you seek access to the following information:

By 'paedophile hunter' I mean a group of people or individual who gather their own evidence of alleged paedophiles.

- 1. In how many cases was the evidence provided by 'paedophile hunters' admissible as evidence for each of the years 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024?*
- 2. How many people were charged because of evidence supplied to the police from 'paedophile hunters' in each of the years 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024?*
- 3. In how many cases were the evidence not admissible for each of the years 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024?*
- 4. How many cases resulted in a mistrial because of evidence submitted from a 'paedophile hunter' for each of the years 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024?*
- 5. What percentage of cases of the crime of meeting a child following sexual grooming involved evidence from a 'paedophile hunter' for each of the years 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024?*

Your request for information has now been considered and I can confirm the information you seek is held by Cumbria Constabulary. However, for this information to be extracted it would require a manual review of every relevant crime and investigation held to establish where from and what evidence had possibly been provided by "paedophile hunters".

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 crimes as detailed above.

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.



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In accordance with my duty under Section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act, 2000 (Duty to provide advice and assistance), I have tried to think of a way to recommend that your request may be refined to bring it under the limit explained above. At this time, unfortunately, I have no suggestions, due to the way that the information requested is recorded.

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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