

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



30th May 2025

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 501/25 Procurement Act 2023

I refer to your request for information received by Cumbria Constabulary on the 6th of May 2025. I note you seek access to the following information:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 in relation to your organisation's response to:

- 1. The implementation of the Procurement Act 2023, and the National Procurement Policy Statement effective from 24 February 2025.*
- 2. The Local Government Association's (LGA) Transformation Guidance and associated outcomes.*

- 1. The Procurement Act 2023*

We understand that, from 24 February 2025, all public sector bodies are required to align procurement activity with the Procurement Act 2023.

These core changes require contracting authorities to ensure that all procurement and tendering activity is undertaken in a manner that benefits prospective suppliers of all sizes, particularly small businesses, start-ups, and social enterprises.

Whilst we are aware that public sectors are required to formally publish Pipeline Notices, that detail forthcoming public contracts with an estimated value of over £2m, of which are accessible to prospective tenderers, in conjunction with their registration of the Central Digital Platform and various e-tendering services, for example, Pro-Contract, In-Tend, Coupa etc.,

In light of this, we request:

- a. Details of the preparations, processes, and procedures your organisation has implemented to specifically meet the requirements of inclusive procurement as outlined above.*
- b. Contact details of the teams or individuals responsible for early engagement with small businesses, start-ups, and social enterprises, to ensure these groups are not disadvantaged in public procurement opportunities.*
- c. Information on how your organisation plans to manage, monitor, and measure performance in these areas.*



EMPLOYER RECOGNITION SCHEME

BRONZE AWARD

Proudly supporting those who serve.



d. *Details of the e-tendering solution you use.*

2. *Local Government Association Transformation Guidance*

The LGA is actively promoting transformational change in local government, with a focus on improving systems, processes, workforce skills, and overall service delivery. These efforts have strong links to procurement strategy and Pipeline Notice planning.

Please provide the following:

- a. *Contact details of your key Transformation Leads.*
- b. *The processes and procedures these leads follow to ensure that small businesses, start-ups, and social enterprises are considered as potential support or delivery partners.*
- c. *Details of major transformation strategies and initiatives undertaken in the past 12 months, including whether any have upcoming additional or secondary delivery phases.*
- d. *Information on key transformation outcomes or milestones your organisation is targeting over the next two years.*

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

The information provided in response to your request has been provided by the Constabulary's Commercial Team.

Cumbria Constabulary's contract spend is under £100m per annum, therefore, we're not required to publish pipeline notices for procurements valued over £2m.

Question 1 –

- a. Our internal Procurement Rules, Procedures, Policies and Strategies are currently under review and being updated in line with the new procurement legislation and guidance, procurements being conducted during this transition period will be in compliance with applicable legislation, including with section 12(4) PA23 (if the procurement is covered under the PA23) which states that:

“In carrying out a covered procurement, a contracting authority must—

- (a) have regard to the fact that small and medium-sized enterprises may face particular barriers to participation, and
- (b) consider whether such barriers can be removed or reduced”.

- b. For each planned procurement on our internal procurements pipeline, the Commercial lead will consider the appropriate procurement strategy and approach, dependent on value, commodity, complexity, marketplace, barriers, routes to market etc. This would also consider the level of pre-market engagement and the approach to this based on - the marketplace/ type of suppliers, proportionality of the tender/ quote exercise so not to disadvantage, also considering the supplier base, barriers to participation, and the potential to opening the opportunity to SMEs, new entrants etc.

To support all suppliers with these changes particularly SMEs, we will be using as appropriate the BlueLight Commercial (BLC) tender, quote document sets, to assist suppliers that bid for work in the police sector market, that there is consistency in the



EMPLOYER RECOGNITION SCHEME

BRONZE AWARD

Proudly supporting those who serve.



structure of documentation. We also signpost on the PFCC website in the Contracts & Spending page to the BLC and Government Commercial portals to provide Suppliers with guidance on the legislation changes, to provide a consistent message to suppliers in the police sector and provide access to material, guidance and support that we as a small force are unable to resource ourselves.

- c. As response to a) above
- d. Our contracts register, & any future tendering opportunity are on In-Tend E-tendering portal.

Question 2 –

- a. No information held
- b. No information held
- c. No information held
- d. No information held

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.



EMPLOYER RECOGNITION SCHEME

BRONZE AWARD

Proudly supporting those who serve.





EMPLOYER RECOGNITION SCHEME

BRONZE AWARD

Proudly supporting those who serve.

