

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



27 May 2025

Dear XXXXX

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 503/25

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

- 1. A copy of the current Dress and Appearance/Uniform Standards for Police Officers for your force*
- 2. Any information regarding an organised Honour Guard/Colour Guard/Ceremonial Unit within your force*
- 3. Information regarding the training and instruction of Student Police Officers/Special Constables in foot drill as part of current initial Police Officer and Special Constable training?*
- 4. The scale of issue of uniform and equipment for new Police Officers and Special Constables for financial year 2024/2025.*
- 5. The cost of each item of uniform and equipment issued to new Police Officers and Special Constables for financial year 2024/2025*

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.

Question 1

Our Dress and Appearance Policy is currently under review therefore we don't have a copy of this to provide to you currently.

Question 2

Cumbria Constabulary don't have a specific unit for this, and the guard is dependent up on the event.

Question 3

Currently our initial officers are trained in foot drill. Limited to basic commands such as at ease, attention, eyes right. We generally have an ex-military student who delivers this.



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Initial Officer training includes drill once per week and at the end of their time at our Learning and Development Centre we have a small full dress ceremony where they perform drill to senior management.

Probationary officers passing out currently undertake a drill refresh and march for attending family and friends

Question 4

POLICE CONSTABLE ISSUED ITEMS
HANDCUFF POUCHES (SPEEDCUFF)
CS LANYARDS
FIRST AID POUCH - PERSONAL ISSUE
TORCH HOLDER KLINK
BATON
RADIO - DOCKING TAB (KLINK-FAST)
HANDCUFFS (SPEEDCUFFS)
HOLDALL
PC & SGT CAP BADGE
BATON HOLDER
CS / PAVA HOLDER
BACK SPACER
GMT5 CARGO TROUSERS - X3
POLICE,WICKING POLO SHIRTS (BLACK) Long Sleeve - X2
POLICE,WICKING POLO SHIRTS (BLACK) Short Sleeve - X3
BLACK BELAY PRO JACKET -
HI/VIS LIGHTWEIGHT JACKET
HI/VIS HEAVYWEIGHT JACKET
PUBLIC ORDER BELT
BELT - UNIFORM SIZE
GLOVES,STAB RESISTANT (BLACK)
GLOVE LINERS
OVERTROUSERS BLACK
CAP SGT'S & PC'S
HELMET
RUCKSACK
BODY ARMOUR
SLIDERS x 3

Please note that Special Constables and Transferee Officers are issued with the same as above.

Question 5

I can confirm Cumbria Constabulary does hold the information requested. However, a section 43(2) exemption has been applied to the information requested thereby exempting its release.



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Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) places two duties on public authorities. Unless exemptions apply, the first duty is Section 1(1)(a) is to confirm or deny whether the information specified in the request is held. The second duty is Section 1(1)(b) is to disclose information that has been confirmed a held.

Where exemptions are relied upon Section 17 of the FOIA requires Cumbria Constabulary, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which:

- (a) States that fact
- (b) Specifies the exemption in question and
- (c) States (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

Section 43(2) Commercial Awareness Exemption:

Section 43(2) refers to information being exempt from disclosure if its disclosure would, or would be likely to. Prejudice the commercial interests of any person (including the public authority holding it).

This is a qualified and class based exemption. As a class based exemption, legislators have already accepted the harm in release of this class of information. As a consequence, there is no requirement to evidence the harm in disclosing such information. However, as the exemption is a qualified exemption there is a requirement to apply the public interest test.

Public Interest Test Considerations:

Considerations Favouring Disclosure:

There is a requirement to provide to the general public a better understanding of how public funds are spent. One of the underlying principles of the Act is the need for openness and transparency. In this case, there is a public interest in establishing that Cumbria Constabulary has negotiated a competitive package in relation to officer issued uniform and equipment.

Considerations Favouring Non-Disclosure:

The Police Service has a moral duty to protect the sensitive commercial information it holds about any individual, authority or private company they have dealings with. In this case, to release details in relation to the successful bid for Officer Uniform and equipment may provide an unfair advantage to one company if they wish to undercut another during and forthcoming tendering process. Furthermore, disclosure would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of the current provider by adversely affecting its bargaining position during contractual negotiations which would result in less effective use of public money.

To provide the details in relation to the successful bid for Officer Uniform and equipment would not only prejudice the commercial interests of the company but also that of Cumbria Constabulary. To release this information may also affect the competitiveness of the supplier/ contract suppliers which in turn would affect the relationship the force has with those companies or individuals which could result in civil action from a third party.

Furthermore, any disclosure of current sensitive contractual information with regards to the provider would inevitably undermine/ damage and compromise the current ongoing-tender process. Furthermore, disclosing the most recent successful bid for Officer Uniform and equipment may prohibit Cumbria Constabulary from being able to negotiate a contract that is of maximum benefit to the Force.



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Balancing Test:

When balancing the public interest test we have to consider whether the information should be released into the public domain. Advantages and disadvantages need to be weighed against each other. In this case the use of public funds favouring disclosure which needs to be weighed against the damage that would occur to any on-going or future tender process and the commercial interests of third parties.

By releasing the requested information, the commercial interests of a business and individuals may be compromised including that of Cumbria Constabulary, along with the relationship the force has with that company or persons. Therefore, the factors favouring non-disclosure, which is damage will occur to any future process and the commercial interests of third parties outweighs the factor favouring disclosure which is better understanding of how public funds are spent.

As such, the public interest favours non-disclosure of the information at this time. Therefore, in all of the circumstances of this case, the public interest in maintaining exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

However, in the hope that it will be of interest to you we can confirm that the total cost per officer for the issue of all uniform and equipment is £1325.00 each.

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](#)



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I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in Cumbria Constabulary



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