

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



3rd June 2025

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 535/25 Livestock theft 2019-2025

I refer to your request for information received by Cumbria Constabulary on the 16th of May 2025. I note you seek access to the following information:

1. *The total number of cases of livestock theft reported in the calendar years 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024.*
2. *The total number of livestock theft reported between 01.01.25 - 15.05.25*
3. *Of the above cases, please could you break it down by theft of sheep, cows, pigs, horses, chicken, donkey, goats. If this is not possible, alternatively could you provide the number of these theft cases where a keyword search of any of the key words 'sheep, cows, pigs, horses, chicken, donkey, goats' is included.*

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 extracted from the Constabulary's Crime Recording system. A key word search using the following terms was conducted: 'Cow', 'Bull', 'Heifer', 'Calf', 'Donkey', 'Goat', 'Horse', 'Livestock', 'Pig', 'Chicken', 'Sheep', 'Ewe', 'Ram', 'Tup' and 'Lamb'.

Please note: A keyword search may not accurately identify all information held by the Constabulary. If, for example, the terms were recorded in a different field, or if another name or term was used to describe them, any such records would not be identified by the keyword search which has been undertaken.

Number of recorded crimes for theft of livestock using keyword search of Modus Operandi (crime notes) between 01/01/2019 - 15/05/2025 showing in calendar years with breakdown of animal.

Animal	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Grand Total
Cow	2		4	1	3	2	2	14
Donkey								
Goat	1		1	2				4
Horse	3	3	2		2	4		14
Livestock			1	1		1		3
Pig				1				1



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Chicken	3	8	8	8	6	3	1	37
Sheep	44	43	35	28	24	31	9	214
Grand Total	53	54	51	41	35	41	12	287

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.

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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