

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



12 June 2025

Dear xxxxx

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 546/25

I refer to your request for information received by Cumbria Constabulary on 19 May 2025. I note you seek access to the following information:

1/ The total number of investigations into sexual exploitation or grooming of minors in Barrow-in-Furness launched by Cumbria Constabulary between 1st January 2009 and 28th February 2025 (date of Miah brothers' sentencing), excluding the Ellie Williams investigation.

2/ For each investigation :

- a. The year it began.*
- b. Whether it involved multiple perpetrators (e.g., suspected organised activity).*
- c. The outcome (e.g., convictions, no evidence found, ongoing).*

3/ Any reviews or audits conducted by Cumbria Constabulary between 1st June 2020 and 31st December 2024 into the accuracy of public statements made in May 2020 denying evidence of organized grooming in Barrow

If full details exceed cost limits, please provide a summary by year or indicate relevant public reports.

Your request for information has now been considered and I can confirm the information you seek is held by Cumbria Constabulary. It should be noted that although we do have a Child Sex Exploitation (CSE) flag within our recording system which has been used since 2012, this would identify all sexual offences against children regardless of whether any 'exploitation' i.e. "where young people (or a third person or persons) receive 'something' (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them performing, and/or another or others performing on them, sexual activities" having taken place. We do not have a statistical function within our systems which purely relates to "organised grooming gangs" and therefore we are unable to search for this specifically as it is not an offence type.

It should be noted that we have recently collated data for the last 15 years based on CSE investigations with multiple victims and multiple offenders for a review as requested by the Home Secretary which produced several thousand records and in order to respond to your request these would need to be manually read in order to identify those which meet the criteria to answer your request.

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 entries.

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.



EMPLOYER RECOGNITION SCHEME

BRONZE AWARD

Proudly supporting those who serve.



LEADER



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

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.

