

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



23rd June 2025

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 579/25 Out-of-Court Disposals/Indecent Images

I refer to your request for information which was received by Cumbria Constabulary on 1st June 2025. I note you seek access to the following information:

Please disclose, since January 1, 2023, the use of out-of-court disposals for the following offences.

1. *Possessing indecent images (any category)*
2. *Making indecent images (any category)*
3. *Distributing indecent images (any category)*

For each of those three categories, please breakdown each offence by the method of disposal. For example, how many were issues a caution, how many issues with a Community Resolution Order, and how many received NFA.

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.

Please note the information within this response is based on linked data, and therefore only looks at outcomes applied for those offences recorded between 1st January 2023 and 31st May 2025. This means the outcome data will change over time.

Questions 2 and 3 have been combined as these relate to the same offence. The information provided shows the recorded outcome for all relevant crimes recorded over the period and the number of crimes which were subject to ongoing investigation as of 31st May.

Following the conclusion of an investigation, extensive consideration is given to determining if a caution or community resolution is the most appropriate outcome and as part of this process the views of the victim are considered as are all relevant safeguarding concerns. Other factors which are assessed include the age of the offender, the severity of the offending and the existence of any previous offending history. Where relevant, the wishes of the victim/parent of the victim are also considered and it is not always in the best interests of a young victim to participate in an Achieving Best Evidence interview and attend court, which may be a requirement if an offender was to be prosecuted.



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LEADER



Within the cautions referred to below are cases involving offenders with learning difficulties, or with cognitive impairment. Factors such as this are also taken into consideration when determining the most appropriate outcome.

Community Resolutions include conditions that address the offending behaviour, and a crime report is not closed until such time as the conditions have been complied with. Details of a caution or community resolution may be disclosed in response to future Disclosure and Barring Service checks.

1. Possessing indecent images Outcomes by method of disposal.

Outcome	086/10 - Possession of an indecent or pseudo-photograph of a child	086/15 - Possessing prohibited images of children	Total
Investigation Ongoing	16	8	24
1 - Charged or Summonsed	16	6	22
11 - Named Suspect Identified - Suspect Below Age of Criminal Responsibility	2	0	2
12 - Named Suspect Identified - Suspect too ill or died before crime was reported to police	0	1	1
14 - Named Suspect NOT identified - Evidential Difficulties: Victim Declines or Unable to Support	1	0	1
15 - Named Suspect Identified - Evidential Difficulties: Victim Supportive	3	1	4
16 - Named Suspect Identified - Evidential Difficulties: Victim NOT Supportive	1	0	1
18 - Investigation Complete - Crime Investigated as far as reasonably possible	5	0	5
2 - Cautioned - Youth	1	0	1
20 - Further Action by Another Body or Agency	0	1	1
21 - Further Investigation is Not in the Public Interest - Police (named suspect or known suspect capable of being identified)	16	9	25
Total	61	26	87



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2. Making indecent images (any category) / Distributing indecent images (any category)

Outcome	086/02 - Take/make/distribute indecent photographs or pseudo-photographs, of children
Investigation Ongoing	161
1 - Charged or Summoned	78
10 - Prosecution not in the public interest (Police Decision)	7
11 - Named Suspect Identified - Suspect Below Age of Criminal Responsibility	30
12 - Named Suspect Identified - Suspect too ill or died before crime was reported to police	2
14 - Named Suspect NOT identified - Evidential Difficulties: Victim Declines or Unable to Support	16
15 - Named Suspect Identified - Evidential Difficulties: Victim Supportive	21
16 - Named Suspect Identified - Evidential Difficulties: Victim NOT Supportive	39
17 - Prosecution time limit expired: Suspect identified but prosecution time limit has expired.	1
18 - Investigation Complete - Crime Investigated as far as reasonably possible	98
1A - Charged or Summoned - Relates to an Alternative Offence to that Recorded	1
2 - Cautioned - Youth	3
20 - Further Action by Another Body or Agency	8
21 - Further Investigation is Not in the Public Interest - Police (named suspect or known suspect capable of being identified)	493
22 - Diversionary, educational or intervention activity undertaken	18
22 - Diversionary, educational or intervention activity undertaken (Pathways / deferred prosecution)	18
3 - Cautioned - Adult	2
8 - Community Resolution	25
9 - Prosecution not in the public interest (CPS decision)	2
Total	1022

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.



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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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