

**Chief Constable**

Chief Constable Darren Martland  
Police Headquarters  
Carleton Hall Penrith,  
Cumbria  
CA10 2AU



24<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Dear

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 597/25 Van Theft Rates**

I refer to your request for information which was received by Cumbria Constabulary on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2025. I note you seek access to the following information:

*We're looking to conduct FOI requests with Police Constabularies across the UK around van theft rates over the past 5 years, the average cost of the theft, most commonly stolen item categories and most commonly broken into van models. Can we please request information on, if available:*

1. *Total number of van thefts recorded in the last five years in the area (broken down by year)*
2. *The average cost of the theft over the past five years in the area (broken down by year)*
3. *The most commonly stolen item categories over the past five years (broken down by year)*
4. *The most commonly broken into van models in the past five years (broken down by years).*

Your request for information has now been considered and I can confirm the information you seek is held by Cumbria Constabulary. However, there is no systematic way for us to identify van theft. For this information to be extracted, it would require a manual review of each of the theft offences across the five years based on crime notes and then categorising them into model of van, stolen items etc for the other questions. Over the 5 year period you have enquired about, approximately 26,500 theft offences have been recorded.

I have estimated the time required to extract the relevant information required will significantly 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.

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.

In accordance with my duty under Section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act, 2000 (Duty to provide advice and assistance), I have tried to think of a way to recommend that your request may be refined to bring it under the limit explained above. At this time, unfortunately, I have no suggestions, due to the way that the information requested is recorded.



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## **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](mailto: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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