

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



25th February 2025

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 145/25 PSD press releases

I refer to your request for information received by Cumbria Constabulary on the 3rd of February 2025. I note you seek access to the following information:

- 1. What is the force's policy on naming police officers charged with criminal offences?*
- 2. If no local or national policy exists, what is the force's official position on naming officers in such cases?*
- 3. Additionally, please provide copies of all press releases issued in 2024 concerning police officers charged with criminal offences.*
- 4. Finally, please provide the number of police officers and special constables charged or summoned to court between 1st January 2024 and 31st December 2024.*

Your request for information has been considered and I can confirm that Cumbria Constabulary does hold the information you request, however I am not obliged to disclose all the information to you.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act requires a public authority, when refusing to provide the information requested, to provide a notice which: -

- States that fact,
- Specifies the exemption in question and
- States, if it would not otherwise be apparent, why the exemption applies.

The exemption which applies with regards to questions 1 and 2 is **Section 21(1)** of the Freedom of Information Act – **Information Reasonably Accessible by Other Means**

This section applies because the information you have requested is already in the public domain. Cumbria Constabulary's policy aligns with the College of Policing's Media Relations Authorised Professional Practice (APP). For your convenience, I have provided links below to where you can access the information requested.

<https://www.college.police.uk/app/engagement-and-communication/media-relations#defining-speaking-terms:-:text=and%20updated%20periodically.-.Police%20under%20investigation,Publicising%20internal%20investigations%20and%20misconduct%20matters,-Police%20misconduct%20hearings>



EMPLOYER RECOGNITION SCHEME
BRONZE AWARD
Proudly supporting those who serve.



Section 21(1) is an absolute exemption, which means that it is not necessary for me to consider whether the public interest considerations in favour of withholding the information outweigh the considerations in favour of disclosing it to you in response to your request.

With regards to question 3 the exemption which applies is Section 22(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act.

Section 22 Information intended for future publication:

(1) Information is exempt information if-

- (a) The information is held by the public authority with a view to its publication, by the authority or any other person, at some future date (whether determined or not)
- (b) The information was already held with a view to such publication at the time when the request for information was made, and
- (c) It is reasonable in all the circumstances that the information should be withheld from disclosure until the date referred to in paragraph (a)

Section 22 is a qualified exemption and as such is subject to a public interest test. This means that Cumbria Constabulary have identified the exemption and have considered whether the public interest in not disclosing the information outweighed the public interest test in disclosing the information.

Factors favouring Disclosure for Section 22- Disclosure of the information under FOIA would increase public awareness regarding such matters and provide greater transparency and accountability.

Factors favouring Non-Disclosure for Section 22- Although there is a public interest in knowing the details of FOI requests as this leads to greater transparency, Section 22 allows for circumstances when it is reasonable and correct for public authorities to delay the provision of information until it is made generally available through publication.

We have reached the view that, on balance, the public interest is better served by withholding this information under Section 22 of the FOIA at this time.

You may be interested to know that the information is due to be published soon and will be available on the Constabulary's website via the following link.

<https://www.news.cumbria.police.uk/>

The information in response to Question 4 has been provided by the Constabulary's Professional standards department.

Question 4 – *Finally, please provide the number of police officers and special constables charged or summoned to court between 1st January 2024 and 31st December 2024.*

Answer – 1

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.



EMPLOYER RECOGNITION SCHEME

BRONZE AWARD

Proudly supporting those who serve.



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.

