

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



28 February 2025

Dear XXXX

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 168/25

I refer to your request for information received by Cumbria Constabulary on 5 February 2025. I note you seek access to the following information:

Information relating to sextortion crimes.

Under the Freedom of Information Act, we kindly request the following statistics on sextortion crimes recorded by your police force over the past five years. Could you please give us a yearly breakdown based on the below:

- 1. The total number of reported sextortion cases.*
- 2. The number of victims who were under the age of 18.*
- 3. A breakdown of the victims by gender.*
- 4. The number of cases where the victim has died by suicide following the crime.*
- 5. The number of cases where the victim has attempted suicide following the crime.*

Your request for information has now been considered and I can confirm the information you seek is held by Cumbria Constabulary. However, in regards to questions 4 of your request, due to the way in which data is recorded this would require a manual search of all relevant crimes. Regarding question 5 this would also require a manual search of all calls for concern for welfare, collapsed person, ill person etc as we do not have the statistical function within our systems for this information to be extracted. I have therefore estimated the time required to extract the relevant information requested will exceed the "appropriate limit".

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,



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unfortunately, I have no suggestions, due to the way that the information requested is recorded.

However, although under no obligation to do so but as a gesture of goodwill which I hope will be of assistance, I can provide you with the information requested in respect of question 1 to 3 and this is set out below.

1. The total number of reported sextortion cases

Year	Crimes
2020	6
2021	39
2022	64
2023	92
2024	46

2. The number of victims who were under the age of 18

Year	Under 18s
2020	1
2021	5
2022	14
2023	28
2024	8

3. A breakdown of the victims by gender

Year	Female	Male
2020	3	3
2021	14	25
2022	26	38
2023	33	59
2024	10	36

Please note that the above information has been extracted from our crime recording system and has been manually checked for relevance to sextortion offences.

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

Your attention is drawn to the attached sheet, which details your right of complaint.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in Cumbria Constabulary.



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