

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



6 March 2025

Dear

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 200/25**

I refer to your request for information which was received by Cumbria Constabulary on 11 February 2025. I note you seek access to the following information:

- 1. The number of under 18s detained in custody overnight by your police force. Please provide the figures per calendar year for the following years: 2024, 2023, 2022 and 2021.***  
***For example: in 2023, 122 under 18s were detained in custody overnight.***
- 2. The number of under 18s detained in custody overnight by your police force who were flagged as having special educational needs or disabilities.***

Your request for information has now been considered and I can confirm the information you seek is held by Cumbria Constabulary. However, due to the way in which data is recorded, I have estimated the time required to extract the relevant information will exceed the “appropriate limit” as the data would require a manual review of all relevant entries as described below.

To locate and retrieve all the information you seek in question 2 it would be necessary to undertake a manual review of all crime reports in relation to *‘the number of under 18s detained in custody overnight by our police force who were flagged as having special educational needs or disabilities’* to establish how many children with these special needs were in each report.

For the time requested there were 1548 crime reports therefore I have estimated that the time required to complete a manual review to locate and extract all information relevant to your request would significantly exceed the “appropriate limit”, as stated in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004. 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 would 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, by virtue of Section 12(1).

However, as a gesture of goodwill and in keeping with the duty to provide advice and assistance under Section 16 of the Act, I have provided you with some information which has been retrieved within the 18-hour limit and makes up Question 1 as set out below.



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## Question 1

| Year               | Count of Custody Name |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 2021               | 299                   |
| 2022               | 361                   |
| 2023               | 420                   |
| 2024               | 468                   |
| <b>Grand Total</b> | <b>1548</b>           |

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.

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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