

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



7th March 2025

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 208/25 Crimes in schools

I refer to your request for information received by Cumbria Constabulary on the 12th of February 2025. I note you seek access to the following information:

Please can I request under the Freedom of Information Act the following information recorded in your force area:

1a) Number of violent crimes recorded in schools in each calendar year (separately) from 2014 to 2024.

1b) Number of arrests for violent crimes recorded in schools in each calendar year (separately) from 2014 to 2024.

2a) Number of knife crimes recorded in schools in each calendar year (separately) from 2014 to 2024.

2b) Number of arrests for knife crimes recorded in schools in each calendar year (separately) from 2014 to 2024.

3a) Number of knife crimes with injury recorded in schools in each calendar year (separately) from 2014 to 2024.

3b) Number of arrests for knife crimes with injury recorded in schools in each calendar year (separately) from 2014 to 2024.

Your request for information has now been considered and I can confirm that Cumbria Constabulary does not hold the information you have requested in an easily retrievable format. The Constabulary's crime recording system and arrest and custody recording system are not linked, and it is not possible to use a keyword search within the arrest data to identify the location or type of weapon used. Therefore, to locate and retrieve the information you seek in part b of each question this would require a manual review of all crimes to identify arrest details.

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



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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 can provide you with some information which has been retrieved within the 18hour limit.

The information provided has been extracted from the Constabulary's crime recording system. A keyword search has been used using the following terms, 'school' 'primary' 'infant' 'junior' 'secondary' 'grammar' 'QEGS' 'academy' 'CofE' 'C of E' 'pupil referral' 'learning hub' 'learning centre' 'PRU'.

Please note: A keyword search may not accurately identify all information held by the Constabulary. If, for example, the terms used were recorded in a different field, or if another name or term was used to describe them, any such records would not be identified by the keyword search which has been undertaken.

Please note that some of the offences may not have occurred on school premises and may have been on the way to/from school. The Place of Offence Premise Name has been manually checked for relevance, anything clearly stating outside of school's grounds in the premise name description has been excluded.

All recorded 'Possession of weapons on school premise' offences (subclass codes 008/27 & 008/62) have been included.

Question 1a) & 2a) –

Offence Group	Year											Grand Total
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Affray											1	1
Robbery					1	2	1	1		4	2	11
Possession of weapons offences	3	2	7	6	12	13	7	15	20	18	15	118
Violence against the person	174	215	216	199	324	337	266	292	413	375	395	3206
Grand Total	177	220	223	205	337	352	274	308	433	397	413	3336

Question 3a) –

Distinct Count of CrimeNumber												
Year												
Offence Detail	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Grand Total
Affray					1							1



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Violence with Injury	1	1			2	5	1	1	4	1	7	23
Violence without Injury		1	1		1							3
Grand Total	1	2	1	1	3	5	1	1	4	1	7	27

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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