

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



3rd April 2025

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 324/25 ‘illegal car meets’

I refer to your request for information received by Cumbria Constabulary on the 14th of March 2025. I note you seek access to the following information:

1. How many reports of illegal car meets were made between:

January 2024 - January 2025

January 2023 - January 2024

January 2022 - January 2023

January 2021 - January 2022

January 2020 - January 2021

2. Of these reports how many people were arrested or fined in connection with these car meet-ups?

January 2024 - January 2025

January 2023 - January 2024

January 2022 - January 2023

January 2021 - January 2022

January 2020 - January 2021

3. Please provide a breakdown of where illegal car meet-ups are most commonly reported, including specific cities, towns, or roadways.

Your request for information has now been considered and I can confirm Cumbria Constabulary does not hold the information you have requested in an easily retrievable format. To locate and retrieve all the information you seek in questions 2 and 3 it would be necessary to undertake a manual review of 182 incidents and cross reference these incidents with our custody recording system. This would be required as our incident recording system and custody recording system are not linked, and the exact location in our incident recording



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system is a free text field therefore a manual review of each incident would be required to locate and extract this information.

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

This information has been extracted from the Constabulary's incident recording system. 'Illegal Car Meet' is not a recordable field in the Incident Recording system therefore a keyword search has been conducted using the following terms: 'car meet' 'cars meet' 'car gathering' 'cars gathering' 'car rac' and 'cars rac'.

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 these, any such records would not be identified by the keyword search which has been undertaken.

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Grand Total
Distinct Count of Incident Number	33	50	44	23	32	182

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



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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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