

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



17th April 2025

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 357/25 Cannabis Factories

I refer to your request for information received by Cumbria Constabulary on the 23rd of March 2025. I note you seek access to the following information:

This is a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and relates to cannabis farms in the UK.

I would like to know:

1. *The number of cannabis factories found in your area in 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024.*

I would like to define a cannabis factory as: 'any property that is being used for the purpose to grow/cultivate cannabis plants, whether there is 1 plant or thousands of plants.'

2. *I would like to know the largest number of cannabis plants found in a single property.*
3. *I would like to know the location (street name) of the property where the largest number of cannabis plants were found in a single property.*
4. *I would like to know how many convictions have occurred because of the discovery of a cannabis factory.*
5. *I would like to know where these convictions took place.*

Your request for information has now been considered and I can confirm Cumbria Constabulary does hold some information relevant to your request and where this is the case I have today decided to disclose this to you.

The information provided in response to your request has been extracted from the Constabulary's crime recording system.

Question 1 –

Year	Distinct Count of CrimeNumber
2020	27
2021	35



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2022	29
2023	43
2024	28
Grand Total	162

Question 2 –

Please note that for this question a manual review of the crime notes was conducted to determine how many plants were being grown at the property. It should be noted that 83/162 of the crimes did not have a mention of the quantity of plants grown.

Answer – 1489 plants

Question 3 –

Whitehaven

Question 4 –

Please note that Cumbria Constabulary cannot provide data on convictions, alternatively the crimes with an OC1 (Charge) assigned have been provided.

Year	Distinct Count of CrimeNumber
2020	11
2021	13
2022	12
2023	20
2024	10
Grand Total	66

Question 5 –

Refer to above caveat, provided Post Town Name of the crime with the OC1 assigned alternatively.

Town	Distinct Count of CrimeNumber
Barrow-in-Furness	4
Carlisle	20
Cleator	1
Dalton-in-Furness	1
Egremont	2
Flookburgh	1
Frizington	1
Kendal	3
Maryport	3
Millom	1



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Milnthorpe	1
Penrith	6
Whitehaven	7
Wigton	6
Workington	9
Grand Total	66

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

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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