

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



22nd April 2025

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 363/25 – Stolen Cars

I refer to your request for information which was received by Cumbria Constabulary on 24th March 2025. I note you seek access to the following information:

Q1. For each of the following calendar years, please provide the number of cars reported as stolen to the force.

- a. 2020
- b. 2021
- c. 2022
- d. 2023
- e. 2024

Q2. For each of the following calendar years, please provide the number of cars recovered after being reported stolen.

- a. 2020
- b. 2021
- c. 2022
- d. 2023
- e. 2024

Q.3. In each of the following calendar years, please state how many reports of a car being stolen led to a charge or summons.

- a. 2020
- b. 2021
- c. 2022
- d. 2023
- e. 2024

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 all motor vehicles are recorded, to identify crimes that only involve cars would require a manual review. For the five year period we hold over 1500 crime records, which to read each



EMPLOYER RECOGNITION SCHEME

BRONZE AWARD
Proudly supporting those who serve.



individual record to ascertain which recorded motor vehicle relates specifically to a car, would exceed the appropriate limit to identify and extract the relevant information.

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.

As a gesture of goodwill, I can provide information for Question 1 and 2 in relation to **all motor vehicles**. Searches were undertaken on the Constabulary's Crime recording database for 'Theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle' and 'Aggravated vehicle taking'.

Question 1

Row Labels	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
Jan	25	10	18	18	24	95
Feb	27	18	21	24	30	120
Mar	20	12	28	33	20	113
Apr	18	20	23	44	22	127
May	17	20	28	30	31	126
Jun	20	20	38	36	42	156
Jul	21	20	28	22	40	131
Aug	28	26	33	35	33	155
Sep	18	21	45	21	36	141
Oct	18	38	33	27	28	144
Nov	30	19	28	41	20	138
Dec	26	27	20	31	16	120
Total	268	251	343	362	342	1566

Please note that above table relates to the number of crimes and not individual thefts, therefore there may be more thefts than crimes. Due to the offence 'Aggravated vehicle taking', the data may also include vehicles which have been damaged during that crime being committed aswell as those stolen.

Question 2

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
Jan	3		4	9	8	24
Feb	10	5	5	6	14	40
Mar	5	1	8	11	5	30
Apr	5	10	8	17	7	47
May	5	2	12	7	11	37
Jun	4	3	10	9	9	35
Jul	6	2	6	8	15	37



EMPLOYER RECOGNITION SCHEME

BRONZE AWARD
Proudly supporting those who serve.



Aug	7	5	5	8	13	38
Sep	2	6	12	6	11	37
Oct	7	11	18	7	7	50
Nov	9	5	7	16	11	48
Dec	5	8	1	7	8	29
Total	67	58	95	111	117	446

The above data relates to the number of individual vehicles flagged as recovered.

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.

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.



EMPLOYER RECOGNITION SCHEME

BRONZE AWARD
Proudly supporting those who serve.

