

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



30th April 2025

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 408/25 – Tool Theft

I refer to your request for information which was received by Cumbria Constabulary on 4th April 2025. I note you seek access to the following information:

1. Total Number of Tool Theft Cases

- *How many reports of tool theft have been recorded annually in your jurisdiction?*
- *Of these, how many involved thefts from vehicles, homes, and commercial premises?*

2. Investigation & Case Closure Rates

- *What is the average length of time spent investigating each reported tool theft case before it is closed?*
- *How many tool theft cases were closed within the following timeframes:*
 - 24 hours
 - 48 hours
 - One week
 - One month
- *How many cases remain open beyond one month?*

3. Arrests, Charges, and Convictions

- *How many tool theft cases resulted in an arrest each year?*
- *How many led to formal charges?*
- *How many resulted in a conviction?*

4. Recovery of Stolen Tools

- *How many cases resulted in the recovery of stolen tools?*
- *What percentage of recovered tools were returned to their original owners?*

5. Police Resources & Prioritisation

- *How many officers (FTE) are assigned to investigate tool theft cases?*
- *Are tool theft cases given a specific priority level compared to other property crimes?*

Your request for information has now been considered and I can confirm that Cumbria Constabulary does not hold the information you seek in an easily retrievable format.

In order to fulfil your request, a manual review of all theft offences would need to be undertaken to ascertain if the property stolen was classed as 'tools'. We do not have a category function within our Crime recording database in which a statistical search can be undertaken for specifically 'tools', as they are recorded under the category DIY/Trade,



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which may relate to other articles such as building materials. Furthermore our arrest and crime data are recorded on different databases, which are unable to be systematically linked.

A search carried out just on our Crime recording database alone, using the classification DIY/Trade, for the 3-year period, captured 277 crimes. I am confident to review all potentially relevant records to identify and extract information would significantly exceed the appropriate limit due to the manual trawl required.

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.

In accordance with my duty to provide advice and assistance under Section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act, 2000, I have tried to think of a way to recommend that your request may be refined to bring it under the limit explained above. At this time, unfortunately, I have no suggestions, due to the way that the information requested is recorded.

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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