

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



29th of April 2025

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 411/25 Malicious Communications arrests

I refer to your request for information received by Cumbria Constabulary on the 6th of April 2025. I note you seek access to the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I kindly request the following information regarding arrests made by your police force from 1 January 2015 to the present date, specifically:

The total number of arrests made under:

- 1. Section 1 of the Malicious Communications Act 1988*
- 2. Section 127 of the Communications Act 2003*

A detailed breakdown of these arrests, specifying:

- 3. How many were related to domestic abuse.*
- 4. How many were related to offensive or abusive posts on social media.*
- 5. How many were related to any other reasons (please specify).*

Please provide this information broken down annually.

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 question 4 it would be necessary to undertake a manual review of all arrest records for the offences requested, of which there are 3497 records.

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



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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 is provided below.

Total number of arrests made under Section 1 of the Malicious Communications Act 1988, broken down by year

Year	Number of Arrests	Arrests relating to domestic abuse
2015	5	2
2016	37	13
2017	58	10
2018	99	33
2019	126	34
2020	137	43
2021	147	51
2022	195	82
2023	207	79
2024	143	53
2025	24	9

The number of arrests made under Section 127 of the Communications Act 2003, broken down by year

Year	Number of Arrests	Arrests relating to domestic abuse
2015	14	3
2016	73	12
2017	77	13
2018	111	19
2019	158	45
2020	223	76
2021	242	120
2022	182	71
2023	137	47
2024	74	9
2025	19	2

Complaint Rights



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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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