

T/Chief Constable
T/Chief Constable Darren Martland
Police Headquarters
Carleton Hall Penrith,
Cumbria
CA10 2AU



4th November 2025

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 1387/25 Livestock Theft

I refer to your request for information which was received by Cumbria Constabulary on 10th October 2025. I note you seek access to the following information:

Number of incidents of thefts of livestock in the county broken down by species, year on year from 2000 to 2025, specifically Sheep/Lambs and Pigs.

Your request for information has now been considered and I can confirm that the information you seek is held by Cumbria Constabulary, however, I am not obliged to disclose this to you.

Cumbria Constabulary does not hold the information you seek in an easily retrievable format. There has been a recent system change which means that we cannot search records prior to 1st December 2018 for keywords.

Therefore, in order to retrieve the information relating to your request for the full timeframe, it would be necessary to manually review each and every individual theft record from 2000 to December 2018 to assess which incidents meet the criteria for livestock theft then broken down by species. I am satisfied, therefore that the time required to respond to your request will significantly exceed the "appropriate limit" of time allowed.

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.

Notwithstanding the above, in anticipation it will still be of interest to you, it is possible to provide you with the data from 1st December 2018 to 2025. This is information I would otherwise have advised you to submit a revised request to seek disclosure of in accordance with the duty to provide advice and assistance.

The information provided below has been extracted from Cumbria Constabulary's crime recording system using a keyword search. The search has been conducted using the terms "sheep", "lamb" and "pig" within the MO of all theft crimes. The results were then manually assessed for relevancy.



EMPLOYER RECOGNITION SCHEME

BRONZE AWARD

Proudly supporting those who serve.



Please note: A keyword search may not accurately identify all information held by the Constabulary. If, for example, the words were recorded in a different field, or if another name or term was used, any such records would not be identified by the keyword search which has been undertaken.

The number of crimes of thefts of livestock in the county broken down by species from 1st December 2018 to October 2025.

Year	Sheep/Lambs	Pigs
2018	7	0
2019	36	0
2020	41	0
2021	32	0
2022	20	0
2023	21	0
2024	26	0
2025	23	0

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.



EMPLOYER RECOGNITION SCHEME

BRONZE AWARD

Proudly supporting those who serve.

