

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



5th November 2025

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 1404/25 Burglary Methods

I refer to your request for information which was received by Cumbria Constabulary on 16th October 2025. I note you seek access to the following information:

Under the freedom of information act, we would like to request the following...

1. *Data on the method of entry for burglaries in the area since the start of 2022, using any standard categories the force holds (e.g. front door, rear door, window, garage, shed/outbuilding, other, unknown).*
2. *How many burglaries are 'forced entry' v 'unforced entry'.*

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 is not a field for method of entry or type of entry when recording details for burglaries. Therefore, in order to retrieve the information relating to your request, it would be necessary to manually review the notes and comments of each individual burglary record to assess what type of entry it was and the method. To obtain an idea of the time which would be required to respond to your request, enquiries were made to identify how many burglary offences have been recorded since the start of 2022.

I have used this figure to form an estimate of the total number of records which would need to be reviewed over the full requested period you have enquired about. I have estimated that it would be necessary to review over 4,800 records in order to respond to your request, which would take approximately 162 hours (based on 2 minutes per record). 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.



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In accordance with my duty under Section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act, 2000 (Duty to provide advice and assistance), 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

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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