

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



6th November 2025

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 1414/25 Offences for Illegally Ending Pregnancy

I refer to your request for information which was received by Cumbria Constabulary on 19th October 2025. I note you seek access to the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am writing to request the total number of criminal investigations opened by your police force into women on suspicion of illegally ending a pregnancy in 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 (to date).

Please:

- 1. Provide separate figures for each specific year, and another for all the years combined*
- 2. Break down the figures into 'no further action' OR 'charge made' OR 'investigation ongoing' where possible*
- 3. Do not include more than one entry where the same individual has been criminally investigated more than once on suspicion of illegally ending their pregnancy*
- 4. Take 'illegally ending a pregnancy' as anything listed in the Notifiable Offences List under the following categories:*
 - o 014/01 Procuring an illegal abortion - Administering drugs or using instruments to procure abortion*
 - o 004/03 Child destruction - Intentional destruction of a viable unborn child*

From the above offences, please only include investigations where the woman who is / was pregnant is the suspect.

Your request for information has now been considered, and I can confirm Cumbria Constabulary does hold some information relevant to your request and where this is the case I have today decided to disclose this to you.

Please note: the following information has been extracted from Cumbria Constabulary's crime recording system. This was using filters to show all offences for '014/01 Procuring an illegal abortion - Administering drugs or using instruments to procure abortion' and '004/03 Child destruction - Intentional destruction of a viable unborn child'.

The volume of 'illegally ending a pregnancy' offences between 01/01/2020 - 19/10/2025.

Year	Volume
2020	0
2021	0
2022	0



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2023	0
2024	1
2025	0
Total	1

The outcome of each 'illegally ending a pregnancy' offence.

Outcome	2024
No further action	1

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.



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