

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



18th November 2025

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 1423/25 Ethnicity of Female Victims of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Offences

I refer to your request for information which was received by Cumbria Constabulary on 22nd October 2025. I note you seek access to the following information:

Please provide the following information for the last available 12 months' data in relation to:

- a. All female victims of domestic abuse*
- b. All female victims of sexual offences*

If you are unable to provide data for all female victims, please provide the data for:

- a. All victims of domestic abuse*
- b. All victims of sexual offences*

The information sought is:

- 1. In what proportion of cases is the victim's ethnicity recorded on the police electronic system?*
- 2. What is the ethnic breakdown of those victims for whom ethnicity is recorded? Please state whether the ethnicity recorded is self-assessed or based on police IC codes.*

Please additionally provide the following information:

- 3. Is the recording of a victim's ethnicity a mandatory field on your force's electronic system?*
- 4. If so, please can you confirm when this was made a mandatory field.*
- 5. Please can you confirm what steps, if any, you have taken since 1 May 2024 to improve the recording of victims' race and ethnicity data on your systems, including any technology solutions, training or policy/guidance provided to officers.*

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.



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Please note: The ethnicity data is based on the person record, which is then linked to a crime. Therefore, any person with no ethnicity data on their record, will show no ethnicity for all crimes they are the victim of.

The data below shows number of people not number of crimes therefore an individual might have multiple cases attached to them.

Questions 1 and 2.

a. All female victims of domestic abuse.

Self Defined Ethnicity DA	Number of Individuals
No data entered	1
A. White English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British	2232
B. White Irish	6
D. White Roma	1
E. White Any other White background	56
F. Mixed White and Black Caribbean	1
G. Mixed White and Black African	4
H. Mixed White and Asian	3
I. Mixed Any other Mixed / multiple ethnic background	7
J. Asian-British (English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish)	7
K. Asian Indian	9
L. Asian Pakistani	2
M. Asian Bangladeshi	4
N. Asian Chinese	2
O. Asian Any other Asian background	9
P. Black English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British	2
Q. Black African	14
R. Black Caribbean	2
S. Black Any other Black / African / Caribbean background	1
U. Other Any other ethnic group	8
V. Prefer not to say	610
W. Not Possible to Ask	183
Grand Total	3164

Officer Defined Ethnicity DA	Number of Individuals
No data entered	321
African-Caribbean	1
Asian	24
Black	19
Chinese, Japanese or South East Asian	9
Middle Eastern	10
Mixed Any other Mixed / multiple ethnic background	2
Unknown	449
White - North European	2290



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White - South European	15
White European	24
Grand Total	3164

b. All female victims of sexual offences

Self Defined Ethnicity Sexual Offences	Number of Individuals
No data entered	1
A. White English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British	763
B. White Irish	1
E. White Any other White background	14
G. Mixed White and Black African	1
H. Mixed White and Asian	1
I. Mixed Any other Mixed / multiple ethnic background	7
J. Asian-British (English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish)	5
K. Asian Indian	1
N. Asian Chinese	2
O. Asian Any other Asian background	3
P. Black English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British	5
Q. Black African	4
R. Black Caribbean	1
S. Black Any other Black / African / Caribbean background	1
U. Other Any other ethnic group	2
V. Prefer not to say	260
W. Not Possible to Ask	118
Grand Total	1190

Officer Defined Ethnicity Sexual Offences	Number of Individuals
No data entered	141
Asian	7
Black	9
Chinese, Japanese or South East Asian	4
Middle Eastern	3
Mixed Any other Mixed / multiple ethnic background	1
Unknown	226
White - North European	777
White - South European	8
White European	14
Grand Total	1190

Question 3.

The victim's ethnicity is a mandatory field on the force's crime recording system.



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Question 4.

Both previous and current crime recording systems have self-defined ethnicity as a mandated field when recording a victim of crime. Release notes from 5-Oct 2018 for the previous recording system reference that a change was made to the victim ethnicity field. On 27th October 2025 officer defined ethnicity for victims of crime became a mandated field in the current recording system.

Question 5.

On 27th October 2025, nationality became mandatory field for victims of crime on the crime recording system. This was accompanied with a briefing as to the reasons behind this change.

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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