

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 1444/25 Pedal Bike Thefts

I refer to your request for information which was received by Cumbria Constabulary on 21st August 2025. I note you seek access to the following information:

Please provide answers to the below questions.

1 - How many bike thefts have been reported for 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 (to date)? Please provide the quantity per year. That's each year running from January to December, if possible. If you work in financial year's instead of calendar years, please indicate.

2 – How many of these stolen bikes have been recovered and returned to their owners? Please provide the response for 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 (to date)? Please provide the quantity per year. That's each year running from January to December, if possible. If you work in financial year's instead of calendar years, please indicate.

3 - How many arrests/convictions have there been relating to the stolen bikes? Please provide the response for 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 (to date)? Please provide the quantity per year. That's each year running from January to December, if possible. If you work in financial year's instead of calendar years, please indicate.

Clarification requested - 28th August 2025:

"Our information providers have asked that we seek clarification from you in respect of what you mean by "bike", i.e. Are you meaning "pedal cycle" or "motorbike"?"

Clarification received and logged as new request - 29th October 2025:

"Pedal bikes please."

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 some of this information to you.

Cumbria Constabulary's crime recording system does not have a tag or filter for returned property nor is it mandatory to record if a pedal bike has been returned. To answer question 2, it would require a manual review of the crime or investigation notes of all records of pedal bike thefts for the requested period to discover if the stolen item had been returned or not. I have made enquiries to find out the total number of records which would need to be reviewed over the full 6-year period you have enquired about. It would be necessary to review 1,291 records in order to respond to question 2, which would take approximately 43 hours (based



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on 2 minutes per record). I am satisfied, therefore that the time required to respond to your request will 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 some of the information requested in the remaining questions, as it was possible to retrieve this information directly. 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.

Question 1.

Year	Number of Pedal Bike Thefts
2020	211
2021	194
2022	227
2023	241
2024	205
2025	213
Grand Total	1291

Question 3.

Please note: We cannot provide conviction data as this is held by the Crown Prosecution Service. We can only provide the number of people charged or summonsed for pedal bike thefts for each year.

Year	Number of Charges
2020	3
2021	7
2022	7
2023	6
2024	3
2025	5
Grand Total	31

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.



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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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