

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



6th October 2025

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 1292/25 Group-Based Child Sexual Exploitation

I refer to your request for information which was received by Cumbria Constabulary on 8th September 2025. I note you seek access to the following information:

- 1. The number of group-based child sexual exploitation offences recorded by the force for each of the past three calendar years (Or if this data has not been recorded, the number of child sexual abuse offences, flagged as child sexual exploitation, for each of the past three calendar years)*
- 2. The total number of alleged victims involved in these offences for each of the past three calendar years.*
- 3. The number of requests the force has made to Snapchat (Snap Inc) for account data/records, as part of investigations into group-based child sexual exploitation investigations (or CSA investigations flagged as CSE) for each of the past three calendar years.*

I have estimated the time required to extract the relevant information required will exceed the "appropriate limit" as this would require a manual review of all relevant entries.

There are no set filters for snapchat or whether each offence was group based on Cumbria Constabulary's crime recording system so this would require a manual review of the crime notes and/or MO of each and every offence related to child sexual abuse/exploitation.

To respond to question three this would require a review of all entries in the previous three calendar years related to child sexual exploitation to first extract results only related to group-based child sexual exploitation. Following that, results would need to be assessed relevancy to snapchat and further, requests to snapchat for records. I have estimated that if each result takes 2 minutes to review, it will take approximately 27 hours to assess which exceeds 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



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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.

As previously stated, we cannot differentiate which offences are group based without thorough review, therefore the number of child sexual abuse offences have been provided instead.

The number of child sexual abuse offences flagged as child sexual exploitation over the past 3 calendar years.

Year	Total
2022	223
2023	221
2024	374

Question 2.

A distinct count of the number of victims from these offences in the past 3 calendar year

Year	Total
2022	112
2023	109
2024	175

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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