

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



8th October 2025

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 1300/25 Roadside Drug Tests

I refer to your request for information which was received by Cumbria Constabulary on 10th September 2025. I note you seek access to the following information:

*For each of the calendar years **2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024**, please provide:*

1. *The total number of **roadside drug tests** conducted.*
2. *Of those roadside tests, how many returned a **positive result for cannabis**.*
3. *Of those roadside tests, how many returned a **positive result for cocaine**.*
4. *The total number of individuals **screened at the police station (following arrest/attendance)** for drug use.*
5. *Of those station-based screenings, how many tested positive for each of the following substances:*
 - *Ecstasy (MDMA)*
 - *Ketamine*
 - *LSD*
 - *Heroin*

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.

Question 1

Cumbria Constabulary do not record the total number of roadside drug tests.

The data provided below relates to 'drug driving' arrests recorded in custody records. This includes people who came into Police custody who were not Voluntary Attendees (as anyone who is arrested will come into police custody) and is based on the custody arrival date as opposed to the arrest date (although these two dates are likely to be the same or only one day apart).

The data in Table 1 shows the number of individual people arrested for a 'drug driving' offence each year. If a person was arrested more than once in the same year they would only be counted once.

This data covers the following offences:

- Drive motor vehicle with a proportion of a specified controlled drug above the specified limit
- Drive a vehicle whilst unfit through drugs
- In charge of a motor vehicle with proportion of specified controlled drug above specified limit
- In charge of vehicle whilst unfit through drugs
- Attempt to drive vehicle whilst unfit through drugs



EMPLOYER RECOGNITION SCHEME

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- Attempt to drive a motor vehicle with a proportion of a specified controlled drug above the specified limit

Table 1

Year	Number of Persons Arrested for 'Drug Driving' Offence
2018	286
2019	392
2020	589
2021	530
2022	540
2023	680
2024	842

Question 2 - 5

In order to retrieve data for these questions, a keyword search of information recorded within the 'arrest circumstances field of arrest records has been conducted for the following terms:

- Cannabis
- Cocaine
- Ketamine
- Ecstasy
- MDMA
- LSD
- Heroin

Please note, some records mention multiple drugs so will be counted multiple times. Also, there are many records which only say, 'positive drugs test' and do not mention which drug.

Please also note, a keyword search may not accurately identify all information held by the Constabulary. If, for example, the words were recorded in a different field, or if another name or term was used, any such records would not be identified by the keyword search which has been undertaken.

Number of people arrested which mention cannabis, cocaine, ketamine, ecstasy/MDMA, heroin or LSD in the circumstances of the custody record.

Cannabis	
Year	Distinct Count of Detainee Person Key
2018	181
2019	234
2020	330
2021	271
2022	272
2023	404
2024	496
Grand Total	2029



Cocaine	
Year	Distinct Count of Detainee Person Key
2018	100
2019	173
2020	254
2021	225
2022	230
2023	291
2024	365
Grand Total	1522

Ketamine	
Year	Distinct Count of Detainee Person Key
2021	2
2022	1
2023	1
2024	2
Grand Total	6

Ecstasy/MDMA	
Year	Distinct Count of Detainee Person Key
2021	1
2023	1
Grand Total	2

LSD	
Year	Distinct Count of Detainee Person Key
2022	1
2024	1
Grand Total	2

Heroin	
Year	Distinct Count of Detainee Person Key
2019	5
2020	2



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LEADER



2021	2
2022	2
2023	1
2024	4
Grand Total	16

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.

