

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



1st October 2025

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 1302/25 Zombie Knives

I refer to your request for information which was received by Cumbria Constabulary on 11th September 2025. I note you seek access to the following information:

- 1. Please can you tell me how many zombie knives have been seized by the force since they became illegal to own on the 24th September 2024?*
- 2. How many machetes have been seized by the force since they became illegal to own on the 24th September 2024?*
- 3. For each of the above categories how many were seized from people under the age of 18?*

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.

The information provided has been extracted from Cumbria Constabulary's property register and crime recording system. A keyword search has been conducted for the terms 'zombie' and 'machete'. During a property search, if an offensive weapon is found but a more serious offence is also committed, as per counting rules, the possession offence may not be recorded as the main offence on the crime. For this reason, there has been a manual check on both property register and recorded crimes.

Please 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.

Question 1.

There have been 12 Zombie knives seized by the force since they became illegal to own on the 24th September 2024.

Question 2.

There have been 21 machetes seized by the force since they became illegal to own on the 24th September 2024, of which 7 were handed in rather than seized at scene.

Question 3.

Please note: There is no age recorded on the property register therefore, the age of suspects have checked for offences identified. Some of these offensive weapons were seized during property



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searches, so they may not have identified who owned them if multiple persons living at address.

One individual was under the age of 18 for offence 'Possession of an offensive weapon in a private place'.

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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