

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



13th October 2025

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 1321/25 Blood Test Results

I refer to your request for information which was received by Cumbria Constabulary on 19th September 2025. I note you seek access to the following information:

For each of the respective years 2025-26 to date, 2024-25, 2023-24, 2022-23, 2021-22 and 2020-21 can I please ask for the following:

- 1. The number of blood tests sent to a lab for testing, taken from suspects, suspected of driving under the influence of drugs?*
- 2. How many of these tests took under one month to be returned with a result?*
- 3. How many of these tests took between one to three months to be returned with a result?*
- 4. How many of these tests took between three to six months to be returned with a result?*
- 5. How many of these tests took over six months to be returned with a result?*
- 6. How many of these tests were 'lost' or were never returned with a result?*

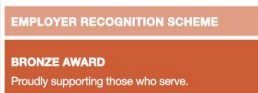
Your request for information has now been considered and I can confirm Cumbria Constabulary does hold some information relevant to your request and where this is the case I have today decided to disclose this to you.

Question 1.

Please note: the data shown below refers to all blood samples sent for drug testing rather than those suspected of driving under the influence. To provide the specific data relating to 'drug driving', it would require a manual review of each and every sample record for the requested period which would exceed the 'appropriate limit' of time.

The number of blood samples sent for drugs analysis.

Year	Number of samples sent for drug tests
01/01/2020 – 31/12/2020	Due to the way data was recorded at the time, these results are unretrievable.
01/01/2021 – 31/12/2021	Due to the way data was recorded at the time, these results are unretrievable
01/01/2022 – 31/12/2022	520
01/01/2023 – 31/12/2023	715
01/01/2024 – 31/12/2024	902
01/01/2025 – 25/09/2025	741



Question 2.

The specific figures for how long each test takes to be returned is not currently recorded on Cumbria Constabulary's system. However, I can confirm that all tests have been returned before the statutory time limit which is six months.

Question 3.

Please see Question 2.

Question 4.

Please see Question 2.

Question 5.

Please see Question 2.

Question 6.

There have been no tests that have ever been lost or not returned for the period requested.

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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