

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



22nd October 2025

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 1335/25 *Illegally Modified E-bikes*

I refer to your request for information which was received by Cumbria Constabulary on 24th September 2025. I note you seek access to the following information:

*Please may I request information relating to **illegally modified battery-powered pedal cycles (ebikes)**:*

- *Can you please provide details of the number of illegally modified ebikes **seized** by police over the last three years (stats for 2023, 2024 and 2025 so far)*
- *Can you please identify the **highest speed (in mph)** the force has ever recorded for a person riding an illegally modified ebike.*
- *Can you please provide details of where/when (on which road) the highest speed was recorded*
- *The age of the rider who recorded the highest speed*

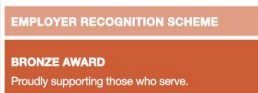
Your request for information has now been considered and I can confirm that the information you seek may be held by Cumbria Constabulary, however, I am not obliged to disclose this to you as Cumbria Constabulary does not hold the information you seek in an easily retrievable format.

The information required to answer this request is not held in a central location. There is not an extractable field on Cumbria Constabulary's system for if an e-bike is 'illegal' and this is not placed in one department. Therefore, it would be required to access multiple departments to retrieve e-bike data then manually review the incident logs and/or crime notes of each incident to assess whether it meets the criteria and if the bike is classed as 'illegally modified'. This is also more difficult as we do not understand or have a definition of what would constitute an 'illegal / non-compliant' e-Bike.

I am satisfied, therefore that the time required to retrieve and collate all of the information 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.



In accordance with my duty under Section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act, 2000 (Duty to provide advice and assistance), I have tried to think of a way to recommend that your request may be refined to bring it under the limit explained above. At this time, unfortunately, I have no suggestions, due to the way that the information requested is recorded.

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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