

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



2nd September 2025

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 1178/25 – Terrorism Arrests

I refer to your request for information which was received by Cumbria Constabulary on 5th August 2025. I note you seek access to the following information:

Please can I be provided with the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000:

- 1. The number of arrests at your force under the Terrorism Act 2000 so far this year (2025).*
- 2. The number of 2025 arrests under section 12, and the number under section 13.*
- 3. The number of arrests under the Terrorism Act 2000 in the annual year 2024.*
- 4. The number of 2024 arrests under section 12, and the number under section 13.*
- 5. The number of arrests under the Terrorism Act 2000 in the annual year 2023.*
- 6. The number of 2023 arrests under section 12, and the number under section 13.*
- 7. For the arrests under section 13 in 2025, please can you provide a list of the types of items seized in any house raids conducted as a result of these arrests. E.g. laptops, literature, phones.*

Your request for information has now been considered and I can advise you Cumbria Constabulary does hold the information you seek, however, there is no requirement to disclose the information to you as the duty under section 1(1)(b) of the Freedom of Information Act does not apply by virtue of the following exemptions:

- Section 24(1) – National Security
- Section 31(1) – Law Enforcement

Sections 24(1) and 31(1) are prejudice-based qualified exemptions which means there is a requirement to describe the harm that would occur if the information you seek is disclosed and also to consider if the public interest considerations in favour of maintaining the exemptions outweigh the considerations in favour disclosure.

Evidence of Harm

Information disclosed in response to a freedom of information request is considered to be a release to the world as once the information is published the public authority has no control over what use is made of that information. Whilst not questioning the motives of the applicant the information could be of use to those who seek to disrupt any police investigation, as it would provide valuable intelligence to terrorists and/or extremists on the effectiveness of counter terrorism activity by an individual police force for arrests and charges made specifically in relation to terrorism legislation.



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Modern day policing is intelligence-led and this is particularly pertinent with regards to both law enforcement and national security. The public expect police forces to use all powers and tactics available to them to prevent and detect crime or disorder and maintain public safety.

The threat from terrorism cannot be ignored. It should be recognised that the international security landscape is increasingly complex and unpredictable. The UK faces a sustained threat from violent terrorists and extremists. Since 2006, the UK Government have published the threat level, based upon current intelligence and that threat has remained at the second highest level, 'severe', except for two short periods during August 2006 and June and July 2007, when it was raised to the highest threat, 'critical', and in July 2009, when it was reduced to 'substantial'. The current threat level to the UK is 'substantial'.

<https://www.mi5.gov.uk/threat-levels>

If Cumbria Constabulary disclosed the number of arrests under terrorism legislation, this would undermine an individual force's policing capabilities, which consequently would be detrimental to their ability to deal with the on-going terrorist threat we face.

To provide the requested data for an individual force would allow comparison between forces across the country and enable terrorists to build a picture of the effectiveness of what resources are in place and where they are deployed. Disclosure would ultimately prejudice the effectiveness of the national counter terrorism effort and would allow inferences to be drawn about force level counter-terrorism activity and identify vulnerability around the country.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring disclosure for S24

The public are entitled to know how public funds are spent and to disclose the requested information would allow the public to see where money is being spent and know that police forces are doing as much as possible to combat terrorism.

Factors favouring non-disclosure for for S24

To disclose this data would render security measures less effective. The risk of harm to the public would be elevated if areas of the UK which appear vulnerable were identified, which would also provide the opportunity for terrorist planning. Ongoing or future operations to protect the security and infrastructure of the UK would be compromised as terrorists could map the level of counter-terrorist activity across the country, providing them with the knowledge of individual force capability as well as valuable knowledge concerning the vulnerability of individual force areas.

Factors favouring disclosure for S31

To disclose the requested data would allow the public to understand that the police are robust in preventing and investigating terrorism-related activity. This would enable the public to have a better understanding of the efficiency of the Constabulary in carrying out its law enforcement role and demonstrate our commitment to openness and transparency.

Disclosure would make members of the public more aware of the threat of terrorism and allow them to take steps to protect themselves and families. Improved public awareness may lead to more intelligence being submitted to police about possible acts of terrorism, as members of the public will be more observant to suspicious activity, which in turn may result in a reduction of crime.

Factors favouring non-disclosure for S31

The release of this information could compromise law enforcement tactics which would hinder Cumbria Constabulary's ability to prevent and detect terrorist crimes. The threat of terrorism will increase as more crimes are committed as a result of terrorists gaining knowledge about the capabilities of individual forces and therefore the public will be placed at a greater risk. A fear of crime will be realised, as terrorists identify areas to be less police focused and therefore vulnerable



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and target and exploit these areas, resulting in the public being in fear of more terrorist activity occurring.

There would be an impact on police resources by disclosing the requested data, as vulnerable forces may need to increase their resources to reassure and protect the surrounding community.

Balancing Test

To disclose the number of individuals arrested and charged under terrorism legislation would start to indicate levels of policing activity at a force level, which could allow individuals to exploit what may be considered as less active or resourced areas, by assessing patterns of police activity and deployments over time, ultimately to avoid detection.

The security of the country is of paramount importance and the Police service will not divulge information if to do so would place the safety of an individual at risk or undermine National Security or compromise law enforcement. Whilst there is a public interest in the transparency of policing operations and in this case providing assurance that the police are appropriately and effectively engaging with the threat posed by terrorist activity, there is a very strong public interest in safeguarding both national security and law enforcement in the highly sensitive subject of terrorism.

As much as there is public interest in knowing that policing activity is appropriate and balanced in matters of national security this will be overridden in exceptional circumstances. Police force's capabilities of combating terrorism are sensitive issues of intelligence value to the terrorist and therefore it is our opinion that for these issues the balancing test for disclosing the requested information would not be in the public interest.

Therefore, in accordance with Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information 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. 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 2

There were no 2025 arrests under section 12, or under section 13.

Question 4

There were no 2024 arrests under section 12, or under section 13.

Question 6

There were no 2023 arrests under section 12, or under section 13.

Question 7

There were no arrests under section 13 in 2025.

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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