

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 1198/25 Financially Motivated Sexual Extortion

I refer to your request for information which was received by Cumbria Constabulary on 8th August 2025. I note you seek access to the following information:

1. *How many incidents of Financially Motivated Sexual Extortion (Sextortion) were reported to Cumbria Constabulary in the calendar years 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025?*
2. *How many of the victims were under the age of 18?*
3. *How many of the victims were under the age of 16?*
4. *How many of the victims were males?*
5. *How many of the victims were females?*
6. *How many of these reports led to a conviction?*

I have estimated the time required to extract the relevant information required will exceed the "appropriate limit" as this would require a manual review of all relevant entries.

We currently have no specific offence code for Sextortion. Therefore, Offence Codes (088/15, 008/71 and 035/00) were used to search Cumbria Constabulary's system as these cover (Blackmail, Disclose or threats to disclose private sexual photographs/film with intent to cause distress, and Sharing or threatening to share intimate private photograph or film). This brought back over 1375 results. The amount of time it would take to manually review each result for relevance to first 'Sextortion' and second for the 'Financially motivated' factor, would be approximately 50 hours if each check would take 2 minutes which greatly exceeds the appropriate limit.

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.



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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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