

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



18<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Dear

## **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 1249/25 Thefts of Copper from Car Charging Units**

I refer to your request for information which was received by Cumbria Constabulary on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2025. I note you seek access to the following information:

*I would like the following, please:*

- *The number of thefts logged by your force which include the terms 'copper' 'electric' 'charger' 'car' in the summary of the offence for the year to date.*
- *Please provide the figure for each of the following years: 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020.*

*As you can tell, I am aiming to collect data on the number of thefts of copper from car charging units, both public and privately owned, to see if there has been a rise.*

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.

There is no filter for the terms required therefore a keyword search is needed to answer this question. Initially a keywords search was conducted in 'Property Details', 'Property Description' and the 'Modus Operandi' using the terms: 'copper', 'electric', 'charger', 'car' for the years 2020 to 2025. This returned 50943 results which has included many non-relevant results (e.g. Car Phone Chargers, Theft of copper from building sites etc.).

To assess which results were relevant to car charging units it would require a manual review of each, and every case returned. At approximately 2-5 minutes per result, for 50943 results, this would greatly 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 and organised.



EMPLOYER RECOGNITION SCHEME

BRONZE AWARD

Proudly supporting those who serve.



## **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](mailto: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.



EMPLOYER RECOGNITION SCHEME

BRONZE AWARD

Proudly supporting those who serve.

