

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



18th September 2025

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 1254/25 Soil Samples

I refer to your request for information which was received by Cumbria Constabulary on 26th August 2025. I note you seek access to the following information:

1. *The number of soil samples that your force analysed and sent for analysis dating back to 2015, the last 10 years*
2. *The number of sediment/rock samples that your force analysed and sent for analysis dating back to 2015, the last 10 years*
3. *What analyses/techniques were used on the sediment, soil and rock samples dating back to 2015, the last 10 years*
4. *The cost of all above analyses to the force*

Clarification requested 26/08

Please advise regarding the type of analysis or soil and sediment/rock samples you are referring to. For example, are you seeking information about soil/sediment/rock sample analysis undertaken to assist with criminal investigations, or in connection with another purpose (eg prior to commencing building work)?

Clarification received 27/08

Primarily interested in investigations, but both would be useful. If you could label which is which (building work and investigations), that would be fantastically informative for us.

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.

Cumbria Constabulary have taken reference soil samples for 6 investigations where none were submitted for analysis (35 exhibits in total).

Cumbria Constabulary have taken soil samples for 1 investigation where samples were submitted (15 exhibits) as part of a Homicide Investigation Forensic Strategy, however, this was a staged examination process and analysis was not carried out as not deemed necessary in the circumstances.

There have been no sediment/rock samples taken in the last 10 years.

There are no costs associated with any of the above.



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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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