

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



25th September 2025

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 1282/25 Malicious Communications

I refer to your request for information which was received by Cumbria Constabulary on 3rd September 2025. I note you seek access to the following information:

The number of arrests your force has made under Section 127 of the Communications Act 2003 and Section 1 of the Malicious Communications Act 1988. Can this data be broken down by calendar year, from 2017 to the most recent available year.

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.

Please note: Our system is unable to directly link arrests with offence data. Instead, we have provided custody records by arrival date as anyone arrested will be brought into custody. The data counts custody records and not people, so if someone was brought into custody on two different occasions for the same offence, they would be counted twice. Likewise, if one custody record has a Communications Act 2003 offence and a Malicious Communications 1988 offence this would also be counted twice - once under each Act. If one custody record had two offences both falling under the same act, then the record would only be counted once.

The number of arrests your force has made under Section 127 of the Communications Act 2003 and Section 1 of the Malicious Communications Act 1988.

Year	Sum of Count Custody Name
Section 1 of the Malicious Communications Act 1988	
2017	35
2018	68
2019	87
2020	105
2021	114
2022	172
2023	186
2024	143
2025	59
Section 127 of the Communications Act 2003	
2017	53



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2018	78
2019	114
2020	189
2021	221
2022	178
2023	140
2024	74
2025	48
Grand Total	2064

Police forces in the United Kingdom are routinely required to provide statistics to government bodies and the recording criteria is set nationally. However, the systems used for recording these figures are not generic, nor are the procedures used locally in capturing the data. It should be noted that for these reasons this force's response to your questions should not be used for comparison purposes with any other response you may receive.

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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