

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



19th September 2025

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 775/25 Policies Violence Against Women and Girls

I refer to your request for information which was received by Cumbria Constabulary on 24th July 2025. I note you seek access to the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am requesting the following information:

- 1. The current versions of your internal policies and/or procedures relating to:*
 - a. Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)*
 - b. Child Sexual Abuse (CSA)*
 - c. Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)*
 - d. Safeguarding of vulnerable adults and children*
 - e. Victim communication, trauma-informed approaches, and victim engagement*
 - f. Any internal guidance issued to officers regarding:*
 - g. Victim withdrawal of support and No Further Action outcomes*
 - h. The Victim's Right to Review (VRR) process*
 - i. Supporting survivors with complex trauma, neurodivergence, or language barriers*
- 2. If applicable, your local implementation strategy or action plan relating to:*
 - a. The NPCC VAWG strategic framework*
 - b. Operation Soteria Bluestone*
 - c. Public confidence or trust-building plans with survivors of sexual violence*

Your request for information has now been considered and I can confirm Cumbria Constabulary does hold some information relevant to your request, however the Constabulary is not obliged to disclose the requested information to you.

In accordance with Section 1(1) of the Freedom of Information Act -

- (a) an applicant is entitled to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request, and
- (b) If that is the case, to have that information communicated to them.

However, Section 14 of the Act states-

- 1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the request is vexatious.



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Having now had the opportunity to fully consider your request, I have concluded that this request is vexatious and therefore the Constabulary is not obliged to comply with the duty in Section 1(1) and your request is refused.

I have not taken this decision lightly and below I have provided a detailed explanation about how I have reached this conclusion, for your information.

The Freedom of Information Act was designed to give individuals a greater right of access to official information with the intention of making public bodies more transparent and accountable. However, the Information Commissioner recognises that dealing with unreasonable requests can place a strain on resources and get in the way of delivering mainstream services or answering legitimate requests. As such Section 14(1) can be applied to a request.

Having reviewed your request, I have determined that the following factor has deemed this request vexatious:

- **Burden on the authority**

With regards to the policies, procedures and strategies held, a full review of all the documents related to the topics listed above would need to be reviewed which includes a list of over 40 documents. I have determined that it would not be possible to conduct a review within a reasonable amount of time. As such to proceed with this request would impose a significant burden on Cumbria Constabulary.

In relation to each document, the Constabulary would need to consider whether the information would be suitable for disclosure in its entirety. If a partial disclosure is deemed to be appropriate, then redactions would need to be made to the document based on an assessment on whether the information includes names, addresses, persons of interest, information provided in confidence which through disclosure would breach data protection principles.

To simply go through one document alone to read and assess the information at 10 seconds per line of text with 30 lines a page and 12 pages in a document, it would take on estimate 60 hours per document. Additional time would then be required to make any necessary redactions to the document.

Taking into account all the arguments above, it is for these reasons that section 14(1) has been applied in this case.

I would like to provide you with advice as to how you may redefine your request, so that it is not deemed to be too burdensome. Unfortunately, due to the nature of how the information is recorded and what you have requested, I am unable to offer any assistance.

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



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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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