

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



6th January 2026

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 1579/25 Child Abduction Warning Notices

I refer to your request for information which was received by Cumbria Constabulary on 7th December 2025. I note you seek access to the following information:

Under the FOI Act I request the following:

The total number of child abduction warning notices issued by the force for each year since 2008.

Your request for information has now been considered, and I can confirm that the information you seek is held by Cumbria Constabulary, however, I am not obliged to disclose some of this to you.

The current register was created on 20th August 2021, the information prior to this date is not held in a central or readily accessible location that would allow us to retrieve it within the practical scope of this request. While it is possible that some historic or fragmented data may exist elsewhere within the organisation, it is not stored in a consolidated or searchable format. Identifying and locating the data would require manual searching across disparate sources. Conducting this level of investigation would involve a significant and disproportionate amount of staff time and resources, beyond what is reasonable for responding to a Freedom of Information request. I am satisfied, therefore that the time required to respond to your request will significantly 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.

Notwithstanding the above, it is possible to provide you with the information requested from August 2021, as it was possible to retrieve this information directly.

Please note: The current register is both CAWN and CE warning letters combined, which is to keep all preventative work against preparators of CE in one location. For note the main difference between what a CAWN is and what CE warning letter is, is that a CAWN is issued when we have a named child who is at risk, a CE warning letter is when we believe there is a risk to children, but we don't have specific names.



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The number of child abduction warning notices and CE warning letters issued by the force since August 2021.

20th Aug 2021 to end of 2021 – 6

2022 – 33

2023 – 31

2024 – 49

2025 – 30

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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