

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



28th January 2026

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 20/26 Communications with UKVI

I refer to your request for information which was received by Cumbria Constabulary on 7th January 2026. I note you seek access to the following information:

PACE Code C, paragraph 7.5 states that "a record shall be made...of any communications with UKVI about a detainee's claim to be a refugee or to be seeking asylum and the resulting action taken by police."

Can you please tell me - for the years 2025 and 2024 (or just 2025 if doing both years would exceed the cost limit) the number of individuals who had such a record made about them whilst in the detention of the police force.

It would also be appreciated, again only if possible within cost limits, if you could provide a breakdown of the primary arrest offence for these individuals.

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 this to you.

Cumbria Constabulary does not hold the information you seek in an easily retrievable format. The current process for Foreign Nationals in Custody is to contact the National Command and Control Unit (NCCU) which is under Immigration Enforcement. The NCCU have access to the UKVI System so direct contact with UKVI is not a common occurrence and is only made by Cumbria Constabulary in exceptional circumstances.

Whether this contact has been made is not held in a central location. In order to retrieve the information relating to your request, it would be necessary to manually review each individual custody record held in order to identify whether the NCCU was contacted. 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.



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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. However, I suggest contacting UKVI/Immigration Enforcement directly to see if information is held in a more retrievable way.

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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