

Forcewide crime statistics for Cumbria

REPORTED crime figures for the period April 2003 to March 2004 (the full financial year) in Cumbria show:

- The total number of reported offences: 39,541 This equates to 81.1 crimes per thousand population in Cumbria (compared to the England and Wales average figure of 113.2 crimes per thousand population over a similar period in 2002/03).
- The number of reported vehicle crimes: 4,102. This equates to 8.4 crimes per thousand population in Cumbria (compared to the England and Wales average figure of 18.8 crimes per thousand population over a similar period in 2002/03).
- The number of burglaries of dwellings: 1,799. This equates to 8.6 crimes per thousand households in Cumbria (compared to the England and Wales average figure of 20.4 crimes per thousand population over a similar period in 2002/03).
- The number of incidents of disorder: 32,994 (NOTE: Only about two to three percent of disorder incidents are subsequently established to be a public order offence). This equates to 67.7 incidents per thousand population in Cumbria (compared to the England and Wales average figure of 64 incidents per thousand population over a similar period in 2002/03).
- The number of violent crimes: 7,275. This equates to 14.9 crimes per thousand population in Cumbria (compared to the England and Wales average figure of 19.2 crimes per thousand population over a similar period in 2002/03).
- Forcewide detection rate for all offences for period April 2003 to March 2004: 31.8 percent (as at April 2004). This figure will increase over the course of the current year as offences committed within that period are subsequently detected.

Assistant Chief Constable Graham Sunderland said: "The past year has seen substantial reductions in the number of vehicle crimes and burglaries from homes, when compared to the previous year.

"Much of this success is down to the hard work of our staff and the use of intelligence to target prolific criminals and prevent them re-offending.

"However, there has been an increase in violent crime when compared to last year. While we would have wanted to have seen a reduction, it should be said that this increase is in line with the rises experienced across the country and does not affect Cumbria's position as one of the safest places to live and work.

"In fact, a lot of work has been put into encouraging victims of violent crime - such as victims of domestic violence - to come forward and report it. It is therefore only reasonable that by actively providing support to victims, we can expect to see an increase. A proportion of violent crime will also be public order offences where no-one has been assaulted. Throughout Cumbria there have been examples of excellent initiatives where police officers, working with licencees and local authorities, have together worked towards curbing incidents of alcohol-fuelled violent crime.

"Although we have less victims of crime than many other areas, my opinion is that one victim is one victim too many. Tackling the anti-social incidents that affect people's quality of life is of prime concern to me and it is therefore pleasing to see measures such as Local Policing Teams are providing a reassurance to the people of Cumbria."