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PRESS RELEASE

Issued at 7.24pm on Thursday 3 June

Ray Cole, Chairman of Cumbria Police Authority said: "On behalf of Cumbria Police Authority, I would like to extend the most sincere condolences and sympathy to the families and friends of those who have been injured or taken so cruelly in such tragic circumstances.

"I've lived in Cumbria all my life and have never witnessed anything like the atrocity that unfolded in West Cumbria yesterday morning. Our county is renowned for being a safe, pleasant place to live and its surreal that something this devastating can happen on our doorsteps.

"Cumbria Constabulary has yet again shown the world how well they are able to respond in the face of a major, complex incident. The dedication and professionalism of the hundreds of officers and staff who have worked around the clock is second to none, and I am proud to see how sensitively the incident has been handled. The Police Authority will offer its full support to the Constabulary and do whatever possible to support the officers and staff and their extended families who have been affected by this incident."

End