



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

FOI ref no: 14470

27th June 2022

Freedom of Information request: reference 14470, first notified to us by email on 8th June 2022.

Thank you for your recent request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, as detailed below:

1. *The number of sexual assault allegations made by persons detained in a psychiatric unit where the alleged perpetrator is a member of staff,*
2. *How many allegations resulted in an investigation,*
3. *How many allegations resulted in prosecution,*
4. *How many allegations resulted in no further action.*

CLARIFICATION RECEIVED ON 23/06/2022

Please can you continue to retrieve the data held using location subtype "mental health facility" between 1st May 2021 and 1st May 2022.

Staffordshire Police's response to your enquiry is as follows:

Staffordshire Police does hold the requested information.

With regards to this request, we do not use a location subtype such as 'psychiatric unit', therefore, a search has been carried out for the location subtype 'mental health unit' as requested. Please note that this is not a mandatory field therefore the results may not be accurate.

In relation to this request and the search carried out, there are investigations that are still ongoing. I am, therefore, citing Section 30(1)(a) Investigations Conducted by Public Authorities.

Section 30 is a qualified, class-based exemption and there is a requirement to conduct a public interest test.

Harm in Disclosure

Disclosure of information in relation to investigations would prejudice police activities for future investigations and would be likely to cause significant harm to the law enforcement function of Staffordshire Police. The police service is accountable in ensuring such matters are investigated and dealt with thoroughly and fairly. This could have an adverse effect on future investigations which could be compromised as it would allow those persons intent on committing crime to have an insight into how investigations are conducted and enable so called offenders to commit crime.

Factors Favouring Disclosure

The police service is charged with enforcing the law, preventing and detecting crime. The publication of the information may serve to increase the accountability and transparency of Staffordshire Police and may encourage public confidence in the effective conduct of police investigations and show how public funds are spent.

Factors Favouring Non-Disclosure

Disclosure of the requested information would prejudice how investigations are carried out in the future. This would hinder the prevention or detection of investigations and prejudice the legal process and therefore risk interference with evidence and could have a detrimental effect on future investigations. The right to a fair trial could be undermined.

Balance Test

I need to consider the public interest in the release of the information that has been refused under the above exemption. The police would not release any information that could hinder or prejudice an investigation. FOI is a disclosure to the world and not just an individual applicant. Once released, the information would be deemed suitable for disclosure without restriction. Therefore, the information would not only be available to you but also everyone else.

It is for these reasons that it is decided that the requested information is withheld.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of this email and should be addressed to:

foi@staffordshire.police.uk

Or by Post to:

Central Disclosure Unit
Staffordshire Police HQ
PO Box 3167
Stafford
ST16 9JZ

Please remember to quote the reference number in any future communications.

Freedom of Information
Central Disclosure Unit