

22 August 2024

FOI Ref -----

Request - You asked us the following:

1. How many offences of stalking were recorded by your police force between:
 - a) 1st April 2021 – 31st March 2022?
 - b) 1st April 2022 – 31st March 2023?
2. Of the offences recorded as one of the 3 stalking offences between 01/04/22 - 31/03/23, how many outcome 1A outcomes are recorded where the alternative offence recorded is either s2 harassment or s4 harassment (putting people in fear of violence)?
3. Of the offences recorded as one of the 3 stalking offences between 01/04/22 - 31/03/23, how many outcome 1A outcomes are recorded where the alternative offence recorded is malicious communications?
4. Of the offences recorded as section 4a stalking offences between 01/04/22 - 31/03/23, how many outcome 1A outcomes are recorded where the alternative offence recorded is section 2a stalking?
5. Of the offences recorded as one of the 3 stalking offences between 01/04/22 - 31/03/23, how many outcome 15B outcomes are recorded?
6. How many dedicated specialist stalking officers (i.e. where the officer's time is wholly or solely reserved for the response, investigation, or management of stalking crimes) does your force currently have?
7. How many stalking Single Point of Contacts (SPOC) does your force have?
8. How many stalking SPO SPOCs does your force have?
9. In how many cases did your police force apply for one or more interim SPO between 01/04/22 - 31/03/23?
10. In how many cases did your police force apply for one or more full SPO between 01/04/22 - 31/03/23?
11. How many of those SPOs that your police force applied for between 01/04/22 - 31/03/23 ended up not being authorised by the superintendent and/or or not authorised by the police force legal services?
12. How many of those SPOs that your police force applied for between 01/04/22 - 31/03/23 ended up being refused at court?
13. How many of the SPOs you applied for between 01/04/22 - 31/03/23 had positive requirements?
14. How many breaches of SPO crimes were recorded between 01/04/22 - 31/03/23? How many resulted in a charge?

We received your request on 29/01/2024 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Please find below our response.

Staffordshire Police holds the following requested information.

1. How many offences of stalking were recorded by your police force between:
1st April 2021 – 31st March 2022? – **Information held.**
1st April 2022 – 31st March 2023? – **Information held.**
2. Of the offences recorded as one of the 3 stalking offences between 01/04/22 - 31/03/23, how many outcome 1A outcomes are recorded where the alternative offence recorded is either s2 harassment or s4 harassment (putting people in fear of violence)? – **Information held.**
3. Of the offences recorded as one of the 3 stalking offences between 01/04/22 - 31/03/23, how many outcome 1A outcomes are recorded where the alternative offence recorded is malicious communications? – **Information held.**
4. Of the offences recorded as section 4a stalking offences between 01/04/22 - 31/03/23, how many outcome 1A outcomes are recorded where the alternative offence recorded is section 2a stalking? – **Information held.**
5. Of the offences recorded as one of the 3 stalking offences between 01/04/22 - 31/03/23, how many outcome 15B outcomes are recorded? – **Information held.**
6. How many dedicated specialist stalking officers (i.e. where the officer's time is wholly or solely reserved for the response, investigation, or management of stalking crimes) does your force currently have? – **Information held.**
7. How many stalking Single Point of Contacts (SPOC) does your force have? – **Information held.**
8. How many stalking SPO SPOCs does your force have? – **Information held.**
9. In how many cases did your police force apply for one or more interim SPO between 01/04/22 - 31/03/23? – **Information held.**
10. In how many cases did your police force apply for one or more full SPO between 01/04/22 - 31/03/23? – **Information held.**
11. How many of those SPOs that your police force applied for between 01/04/22 - 31/03/23 ended up not being authorised by the superintendent and/or not authorised by the police force legal services? – **Information held.**

12. How many of those SPOs that your police force applied for between 01/04/22 - 31/03/23 ended up being refused at court? – **Information held.**
13. How many of the SPOs you applied for between 01/04/22 - 31/03/23 had positive requirements? – **Information held.**
14. How many breaches of SPO crimes were recorded between 01/04/22 - 31/03/23? How many resulted in a charge? – **No information held.**

Staffordshire Police discloses/withholds the following information.

1. How many offences of stalking were recorded by your police force between:
1st April 2021 – 31st March 2022? – **Disclosed, please see accompanying file titled 'FOI 16430 Stalking Offences Data.CSV'.**
1st April 2022 – 31st March 2023? – **Disclosed, please see accompanying file titled 'FOI 16430 Stalking Offences Data.CSV'.**
2. Of the offences recorded as one of the 3 stalking offences between 01/04/22 - 31/03/23, how many outcome 1A outcomes are recorded where the alternative offence recorded is either s2 harassment or s4 harassment (putting people in fear of violence)? – **Partially disclosed, please see accompanying file titled 'FOI 16430 Stalking Offences Data.CSV'.**
3. Of the offences recorded as one of the 3 stalking offences between 01/04/22 - 31/03/23, how many outcome 1A outcomes are recorded where the alternative offence recorded is malicious communications? – **Partially disclosed, please see accompanying file titled 'FOI 16430 Stalking Offences Data.CSV'.**
4. Of the offences recorded as section 4a stalking offences between 01/04/22 - 31/03/23, how many outcome 1A outcomes are recorded where the alternative offence recorded is section 2a stalking? – **Partially disclosed, please see accompanying file titled 'FOI 16430 Stalking Offences Data.CSV'.**
5. Of the offences recorded as one of the 3 stalking offences between 01/04/22 - 31/03/23, how many outcome 15B outcomes are recorded? – **Partially disclosed, please see accompanying file titled 'FOI 16430 Stalking Offences Data.CSV'.**
6. How many dedicated specialist stalking officers (i.e. where the officer's time is wholly or solely reserved for the response, investigation, or management of stalking crimes) does your force currently have? – **Disclosed, nil.**
7. How many stalking Single Point of Contacts (SPOC) does your force have? – **Disclosed, 10.**
8. How many stalking SPO SPOCs does your force have? – **Disclosed, 10.**
9. In how many cases did your police force apply for one or more interim SPO between 01/04/22 - 31/03/23? – **Disclosed, 3.**

10. In how many cases did your police force apply for one or more full SPO between 01/04/22 - 31/03/23? – **Disclosed, nil.**
11. How many of those SPOs that your police force applied for between 01/04/22 - 31/03/23 ended up not being authorised by the superintendent and/or or not authorised by the police force legal services? – **Disclosed, 18.**
12. How many of those SPOs that your police force applied for between 01/04/22 - 31/03/23 ended up being refused at court? – **Disclosed, nil.**
13. How many of the SPOs you applied for between 01/04/22 - 31/03/23 had positive requirements? – **Disclosed, nil.**
14. How many breaches of SPO crimes were recorded between 01/04/22 - 31/03/23? How many resulted in a charge? – **Disclosed, 9 breaches of Stalking Protection Orders were recorded as crimes, none of which resulted in a charge.**

Please note that for question 5, we have included outcome 15 outcomes within the dataset provided.

Please note that this data has been provided to the best of our ability, subject to the limitation of current recording protocols and systems/software. Additional offences may have been recorded during these timescales but are awaiting finalisation and input onto these systems and would not be present within this dataset.

Every effort is made to ensure that the data presented is accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that this has been extracted from multiple sources, developed for specific policing purposes, for which data extraction methods have not been specifically designed to directly correlate with the terminology of this request. Therefore, the data presented is subject to the inaccuracies and idiosyncrasies inherent in any large-scale recording system.

As a consequence, care should be taken in the interpretation and presentation of this data, so as to not misrepresent the whole or any part of the data disclosed.

The above information has been withheld for the following reasons:

Several matters within the dataset provided currently remain ongoing at this time. Disclosure of further details relating to these occurrences at this time would prejudice police activities both for ongoing and future investigations, and would be likely to cause significant harm to the law enforcement function of Staffordshire Police and the administration of justice.

The following exemptions have been applied:

- **Section 30(1)(a)(b) – Criminal Investigations**



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Section 30 is qualified and prejudice-based and, as such, we are required to evidence the harm in disclosure and apply the public interest test.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring disclosure under Section 30(1)(a)(b)

Disclosure of the information would improve the public's knowledge and understanding of the investigatory process and, as all police investigations are publicly funded, would show how public funds are being spent.

Factors favouring non-disclosure under Section 30(1)(a)(b)

Disclosure of the requested information would prejudice how investigations are carried out in the future. Staffordshire Police is charged with enforcing the law, preventing and detecting crime and protecting the communities we serve. Any release of information relating to ongoing investigations could prejudice and undermine those investigations. The prevention and detection of such matters could therefore be hindered and therefore risk interference with evidence, which could have detrimental impact on future investigations. In addition, the right to a fair trial could be undermined.

Balance test

Disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act is a release of information to the world in general and not an individual applicant. Having considered the public interest factors we are required to determine whether on balance the factors favouring disclosure outweigh those which are against disclosure. It is our view that the factors favouring disclosure do not outweigh those which favour non-disclosure.

Next steps

You can ask us to review our response.

If you would like us to carry out a review of our response, please let us know within two months of the date of receipt of this email, review requests should be addressed to:

foi@staffordshire.police.uk

Or by Post to:

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



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

Freedom of Information
Central Disclosure Unit