

9 August 2024

FOI Ref 16553

**Request - You asked us the following:**

1. Please provide the number of children who have been recorded as trafficked to the UK by your police force.
2. Please provide a breakdown of where the children were trafficked from, eg. Romania, Sudan.
3. Please provide an age breakdown of the children rescued from trafficking. Please do this by each year eg. 11, 12, 13
4. Please provide details as to what the children were trafficked to the UK for, eg. Slave Labour, Sexual abuse etc.
5. Please provide data on how many of these children have been returned to their home country and how many have been granted residency in the United Kingdom.

Please can I have data for the last five years, broken down by year.

**We received your request on 20/02/2024 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).**

**Please find below our response.**

**In accordance with Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, this letter represents a refusal notice for this particular request.**

**The above request has been rejected for the following reasons:**

There is no method by which we can readily identify or locate whether information is held within Staffordshire Police systems to answer this request. This is due to the fact that our crime/occurrence reporting and recording systems would have to be manually checked for all human trafficking reports to identify whether we hold any such information relating to children, and extract the details from any record of a child being trafficked into the UK, if they should exist. In order to establish whether we hold any information relating to this request has been estimated to take approximately 28 hours, which exceeds the time and cost threshold of the Freedom of Information Act by some considerable margin.

The police service in its' fight against crime and terrorism may engage at times with the bodies listed at Section 23 of the Freedom of Information Act and on occasions there may be information provided to police from one of these bodies. As advised below, the decision to issue a Neither Confirm nor Deny (NCND) response is not affected by whether we do or do not hold the information but relates to the consequences of confirming or denying the information is held. The NCND response is used to avoid risks caused by providing inconsistent responses to a series of similar



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requests where the information may originate from a number of sources and not necessarily a security body.

**The following exemptions have been applied:**

- **Section 12(2)**

In order to identify whether or not information is or isn't held would exceed the cost threshold in accordance with Section 12(2) of the Freedom of Information Act as in order to satisfy S1(1)(a) of the Act would exceed the cost threshold.

- **Section 23(5) Information supplied by, or concerning certain security bodies**

The duty to confirm or deny does not arise if, or to the extent that, compliance with Section 1(1)(a) would involve the disclosure of information (whether or not already recorded) which was directly or indirectly supplied to the public authority by, or relates to, any of the bodies specified in subsection (3).

Section 23(5) is an absolute exemption and there is no requirement to consider the public interest in this case.

**Advice and assistance**

Section 16 of the Act places an obligation upon the Authority to provide advice and assistance, in order to comply with this obligation please see below.

If the time frame specified within your original request was reduced to data for the last three years, Staffordshire Police would be in a position to commence searches for the data you have requested. However, this data may be subject to further substantive exemptions from 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](mailto:foi@staffordshire.police.uk)

Or by Post to:

Central Disclosure Unit  
Staffordshire Police HQ  
PO Box 3167  
Stafford



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

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