

16 August 2024

FOI Ref 16616

Request - You asked us the following:

Operation Transom (Illegal motorbikes)

From the start of the operation in 2023 to now 4th March 2024.

How many motorbikes have been seized?

How many prosecutions have been made? (Including warnings and cautions) What age are those caught?

I would also like to know how many reports/complaints/calls have Staffordshire police received since the start of Transom?

We received your request on 05/03/2024 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.

Staffordshire Police discloses/withholds the following information.

From the start of the operation in 2023 to now 4th March 2024.

- How many motorbikes have been seized? – **Withheld.**
- How many prosecutions have been made? (Including warnings and cautions) What age are those caught? – **Withheld.**
- I would also like to know how many reports/complaints/calls have Staffordshire police received since the start of Transom? – **Withheld.**

The above information has been withheld for the following reasons:

There is no method by which we can readily retrieve information from our systems to answer this request. For the time period requested, there have been in excess of 1,000 reports of anti-social behaviour involving nuisance vehicles. In order to determine whether such vehicles are illegal motorbikes or involved in Operation Transom, the record for each report would require manual review. Furthermore, in order to determine the age of a suspect or offender and whether any prosecutions, warnings or cautions occurred, the record for each occurrence would require further review.

From dip sampling, it has been estimated that it would take approximately 5 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to over 83 hours. To achieve this task would



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therefore exceed the 18-hour time and cost threshold of the Freedom of Information Act by some considerable margin.

The following exemptions have been applied:

- Section 12(1) where the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit.
Section 12(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the prescribed limit'.

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.

Staffordshire Police could provide information regarding the number of motorbikes seized if the remaining parts of the request were withdrawn.

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

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

Freedom of Information
Central Disclosure Unit