

19 August 2024

FOI Ref 16764

Request - You asked us the following:

Please provide the periodic eg monthly figures on arrests, arrest audits and how many of those arrests are considered by the force to have been illegal.

How many letters or other communications have been sent to members of the public that the police have found through their internal checks to have been arrested illegally. Feel free to go back as far as you can, obviously within the time allowed.

We received your request on 15/04/2024 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 information has been withheld for the following reasons:

There is no method by which we can easily identify or locate whether information is held within Staffordshire Police systems to answer this request. This is due to the fact that each department completes audits on their own investigations, and if arrests are found to be inappropriate, this is reviewed by department supervisors at the time. In order to establish whether or not Staffordshire Police hold information relating to arrest audits and illegal arrests would require contacting all supervisory personnel working within an investigatory role, both current and historical. This in itself would exceed the time and cost threshold of the Freedom of Information Act. Furthermore, extending our searches to include letters or other communications to the public, which may or may not exist regarding their arrest, would add further time beyond what is possible under the time and cost threshold of the act.

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.



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

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If other parts of the request were withdrawn, Staffordshire Police would be able to provide monthly arrest figures from May 2020 to the present day.

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