

13 August 2024

FOI Ref 16833

Request - You asked us the following:

My request relates to your forces' arrest figures for drivers under the influence of drugs and alcohol

I would like to request the following information:

The number of drink driving arrests

The number of drug driving arrests

Please can you provide the numbers broken down year-by-year, featuring monthly data for those years. Up to 30 March 2024, including 2024 data, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020 and 2019.

If possible, please also indicate which drug was present in the bloodstream for each drug driving arrest

Please provide the information in an electronic format, ideally an excel spreadsheet.

If it is not possible to provide the information requested due to the information exceeding the cost of compliance limits, please provide advice and assistance as to how I can refine my request.

We received your request on 01/05/2024 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 withholds the following information.

I would like to request the following information:

The number of drink driving arrests

The number of drug driving arrests

Please can you provide the numbers broken down year-by-year, featuring monthly data for those years. Up to 30 March 2024, including 2024 data, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020 and 2019.

If possible, please also indicate which drug was present in the bloodstream for each drug driving arrest

The above information has been withheld for the following reasons:

This is because on 20th May 2020 Staffordshire Police implemented a new case management system. This system brought data from a number of legacy systems into one to provide a single nominal record, including the custody system. The old custody system has now been decommissioned and as a result there is no search facility to be able to retrieve the requested data. It would entail searching thousands of records to establish if it fitted the criteria of the request. Likewise, in order to determine which drug was present in the bloodstream would require a manual trawl over 4,000 occurrences to determine this. To achieve this task would exceed the 18-hour time and cost threshold stipulated by the FOI Act.

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.

In order to assist in refining your request, data could be provided relevant to question 1 from May 2020 broken down by year. However, please note further exemptions may apply.

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