

21 August 2024

FOI Ref 16949

Request - You asked us the following:

1. How many learner driver accidents have there been in recent years between (05/04/2021) to 05/04/24
 - 1a) of those incidents, whether the collision was with another vehicle or pedestrian
 - 1b) the gender of the learner drivers
 - 1c) the age of the learner drivers
 - 1d) the time of the day the accident occurred
 - 1e) The location of test centres where accidents occurred on test

We received your request on 14/06/2024 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.

- How many learner driver accidents have there been in recent years between (05/04/2021) to 05/04/24 – **Withheld.**
- a) of those incidents, whether the collision was with another vehicle or pedestrian – **Withheld.**
- 1b) the gender of the learner drivers – **Withheld.**
- 1c) the age of the learner drivers – **Withheld.**
- 1d) the time of the day the accident occurred – **Withheld.**
- 1e) The location of test centres where accidents occurred on test – **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. Within our road incident recording systems, there is no specific field to record whether the driver was qualified or a learner driver. For the time period requested, there have been in excess of 4,000 road traffic incidents recorded on our road traffic incident recording systems. In order to determine whether the accident involved a learner driver, the record for each incident would require manual review. Further review of each record would also be required in order to identify the nature of the collision, gender and age of the driver, time of day the incident occurred, and the location of the test centres where accidents occurred on a test.

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 333 hours. To achieve this task would 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:

1. 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.

Unfortunately, we cannot suggest a way in which your request could be simplified or pared down in order to bring it within the confines of the time and cost threshold.

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



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

PO Box 3167
Stafford
ST16 9JZ

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

Freedom of Information
Central Disclosure Unit