

22 August 2024

FOI Ref 16967

Request - You asked us the following:

1. Between the dates September 2019 - May 2024, have you recovered any leather exhibits from crime scenes or the person?
2. If yes to question 1, please provide a breakdown of types of leather exhibits recovered and number per year (clothing - jacket for example; footwear; furniture; weapon sheath - knife, gun, other; animal lead; wallet; belt; handbag).
3. If the leather exhibits were submitted to a Chemical Development (Fingermark Enhancement) Laboratory, please disclose what fingermark development methods were used on the leather exhibits and if they were successfully used to visualise fingermarks.
4. Please disclose if the fingermarks on leather exhibits successfully yielded any identifications.
5. If yes to question 4, please provide data as to how many identifications were yielded from leather exhibits.

We received your request on 19/06/2024 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Please find below our response.

Staffordshire Police holds the following requested information.

1. Between the dates September 2019 - May 2024, have you recovered any leather exhibits from crime scenes or the person? – **Information held.**
2. If yes to question 1, please provide a breakdown of types of leather exhibits recovered and number per year (clothing - jacket for example; footwear; furniture; weapon sheath - knife, gun, other; animal lead; wallet; belt; handbag). – **Information held.**
3. If the leather exhibits were submitted to a Chemical Development (Fingermark Enhancement) Laboratory, please disclose what fingermark development methods were used on the leather exhibits and if they were successfully used to visualise fingermarks. – **Information held.**
4. Please disclose if the fingermarks on leather exhibits successfully yielded any identifications. – **Information held.**
5. If yes to question 4, please provide data as to how many identifications were yielded from leather exhibits. – **No information held.**

Staffordshire Police discloses/withholds the following information.

1. Between the dates September 2019 - May 2024, have you recovered any leather exhibits from crime scenes or the person? – **Disclosed, yes.**
2. If yes to question 1, please provide a breakdown of types of leather exhibits recovered and number per year (clothing - jacket for example; footwear; furniture; weapon sheath - knife, gun, other; animal lead; wallet; belt; handbag). – **Disclosed, please see accompanying file titled 'FOI 16967 Leather Exhibits Data.CSV'.**
3. If the leather exhibits were submitted to a Chemical Development (Fingermark Enhancement) Laboratory, please disclose what fingermark development methods were used on the leather exhibits and if they were successfully used to visualise fingermarks. – **Disclosed, three leather exhibits were submitted to the Forensic Enhancement Laboratory. Superglue (Cyanoacrylate) fuming followed by Basic Yellow 40 dye was used to chemically treat all three exhibits. No marks of value were recorded on any of the three exhibits.**
4. Please disclose if the fingermarks on leather exhibits successfully yielded any identifications. – **Disclosed, no marks of value were recorded thus no identifications were made.**

Please note that Staffordshire Police have drawn this information from our forensic work management system, running a search on the exhibit descriptor 'leather', for the requested period. We cannot, therefore, guarantee that this list includes all seized leather exhibits, as those not referencing 'leather' in the exhibit description at the point of seizure will be excluded. This is a limitation of the work management system and dependent on the seizing officer's decision to include the material type in the description.

We can also not guarantee that all those exhibits that contain the word 'leather' in their description were definitively leather. As again, faux leather, leather imitation plastics and other materials of leather appearance may have been recorded as leather in the description at the point of seizure. We do not routinely check the authenticity of exhibit materials or routinely record exhibit materials in the exhibit description.

The list of included exhibits only pertains to those recorded on the forensic work management system as being submitted to the forensics department. Their inclusion does designate these exhibits were submitted for forensic work as they may have been not deemed suitable at the point of receipt.

Finally, it should also be noted that some of the seized leather exhibits are not the principal item of enquiry, that is, they are often included with the exhibit as a case, sheath or attached element and it may be that the forensic work required does not include further examination of the leather component in these instances.

Please note that this data has been provided to the best of our ability, subject to the limitation of current recording protocols and systems/software.

Every effort is made to ensure that the data presented is accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that this has been extracted from multiple sources, developed for specific policing purposes, for which data extraction methods have not been specifically designed to directly correlate with the terminology of this request. Therefore, the data presented is subject to the inaccuracies and idiosyncrasies inherent in any large-scale recording system.



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As a consequence, care should be taken in the interpretation and presentation of this data, so as to not misrepresent the whole or any part of the data disclosed.

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