

20 August 2024

FOI Ref 16988

Request - You asked us the following:

In the period of Jan 2022 and Jan 2024

- How many sexual assaults were reported to you by passengers of Taxis, of all types (a car with a driver whom you pay to take you where you want to go:) Including drivers of vehicles that subsequently turned out not to be taxis, the important distinction being that the complainant believed that the vehicle was a taxi at the time the alleged assault took place.
- How many taxi drivers reported physical or verbal abuse from customers.
- How many taxi drivers reported customers making off without payment.

I would like you to provide this information to me as one-off figures, if you have provided it before I kindly request that you supply it again and not redirect me somewhere else.

We received your request on 26/06/2024 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 sexual assaults were reported to you by passengers of Taxis, of all types (a car with a driver whom you pay to take you where you want to go:) Including drivers of vehicles that subsequently turned out not to be taxis, the important distinction being that the complainant believed that the vehicle was a taxi at the time the alleged assault took place.
- How many taxi drivers reported physical or verbal abuse from customers.
- How many taxi drivers reported customers making off without payment.

The above information has been withheld for the following reasons:

There is no method by which we can easily retrieve information from our systems to answer this request. For the time period requested, there have been in excess of 4,100 occurrences that related to sexual assault. In order to ascertain whether the victim was a passenger in a Taxi, or if the



victim believes it was a taxi, would require a manual trawl through each crime report. Furthermore, to determine how many taxi drivers reported physical or verbal abuse or if the taxi driver reported the customer making off without payments would require a trawl through all incident logs for your requested time period, which would entail trawling through thousands of records. To extract this data would therefore require a very labour-intensive manual trawl through thousands of records. To achieve this task would therefore exceed the 18-hour time and cost threshold of the FOI 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.

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
PO Box 3167
Stafford
ST16 9JZ

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

Freedom of Information
Central Disclosure Unit