

29 August 2024

FOI Ref 17034

Request - You asked us the following:

I hereby submit a freedom of information request for copies of any data which Staffordshire Safer Roads Partnership as a data processor hold, store and have processed, in respect of:

- The road surface and signage relating to the resurfacing of the B4176 Himley Road in May 2023; and
- Any investigation following the collision which occurred on the above road on 31 May 2023.

The date range when undertaking the search for the data should be from the date in which the resurfacing of the B4176 Himley Road commenced up until the conclusion of the investigation following the collision.

The results should include:

- Any minutes of meetings (written notes or scanned copy filings of the same) held by the Council / Partnership along with the Police, Fire Service, Highways Engineers etc;
- Any correspondence, whether that be emails, letters, telephone conversations (note of), etc.. between the above parties;
- Any documents produced that are on file; and
- Anything else that is in relation to the request that is in the Staffordshire Safer Road Partnership's possession.

We received your request on 10/07/2024 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Please find below our response.

Staffordshire Police holds the following requested information.

- The road surface and signage relating to the resurfacing of the B4176 Himley Road in May 2023 – **No information held.**
- Any investigation following the collision which occurred on the above road on 31 May 2023. – **Information held.**
- Any minutes of meetings (written notes or scanned copy filings of the same) held by the Council / Partnership along with the Police, Fire Service, Highways Engineers etc; - **No information held.**
- Any correspondence, whether that be emails, letters, telephone conversations (note of), etc.. between the above parties; **No information held.**

- Any documents produced that are on file; - **Information held.**
- Anything else that is in relation to the request that is in the Staffordshire Safer Road Partnership's possession. – **No information held.**

Staffordshire Police withholds the following information.

- Any investigation following the collision which occurred on the above road on 31 May 2023. – **Withheld.**
- Any documents produced that are on file; - **Withheld.**

The above information has been withheld for the following reasons:

Several matters currently remain ongoing at this time. Disclosure of further details relating to these occurrences at this time would prejudice police activities both for ongoing and future investigations, and would be likely to cause significant harm to the law enforcement function of Staffordshire Police and the administration of justice.

The following exemptions have been applied:

- Section 30(1)(a)(b) – Criminal Investigations

Section 30 is qualified and prejudice-based and, as such, we are required to evidence the harm in disclosure and apply the public interest test.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring disclosure under Section 30(1)(a)(b)

Disclosure of the information would improve the public's knowledge and understanding of the investigatory process and, as all police investigations are publicly funded, would show how public funds are being spent.

Factors favouring non-disclosure under Section 30(1)(a)(b)

Disclosure of the requested information would prejudice how investigations are carried out in the future. Staffordshire Police is charged with enforcing the law, preventing and detecting crime and protecting the communities we serve. Any release of information relating to ongoing investigations could prejudice and undermine those investigations. The prevention and detection of such matters could therefore be hindered and therefore risk interference with evidence, which could have detrimental impact on future investigations. In addition, the right to a fair trial could be undermined.



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Balance test

Disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act is a release of information to the world in general and not an individual applicant. Having considered the public interest factors we are required to determine whether on balance the factors favouring disclosure outweigh those which are against disclosure. It is our view that the factors favouring disclosure do not outweigh those which favour non-disclosure.

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.

Staffordshire Police does not hold information relating to road signage, however, you may find the answers to your request at Staffordshire County Council.

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