

23 August 2024

FOI Ref 17042

Request - You asked us the following:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request the following information:

1. Number of arrests under the Public Order Act 2023 since May 2023, of individuals affiliated with the following groups: Extinction Rebellion, Ocean Rebellion, Coal Action Network, Right to Roam, Earth First, Youth Strike 4 Climate, Fridays 4 Future, Rising Tide, Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND), Burning Pink, Tree Defenders, Fossil Free, Just Stop Oil, Insulate Britain, HS2 Rebellion (or anti-HS2 protestors), or any other arrests associated with climate or environmental activism. I would like this list to be broken down by principle offence, event/location of arrest, and outcome of the arrest.
2. Number of arrests of individuals affiliated with the following groups: Extinction Rebellion, Ocean Rebellion, Coal Action Network, Right to Roam, Earth First, Youth Strike 4 Climate, Rising Tide, Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND), Burning Pink, Tree Defenders, Fossil Free, Just Stop Oil, Insulate Britain, HS2 Rebellion (or anti-HS2 protestors), or any other arrests associated with climate or environmental activism since October 2018. I would also like a breakdown by principle offence, event/location of arrest, and outcome of the arrest.

I would like you to provide the information electronically, preferably in a spreadsheet format. I am open to reworking the scope of the request if necessary.

We received your request on 15/07/2024 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.

- 1. Number of arrests under the Public Order Act 2023 since May 2023, of individuals affiliated with the following groups: Extinction Rebellion, Ocean Rebellion, Coal Action Network, Right to Roam, Earth First, Youth Strike 4 Climate, Fridays 4 Future, Rising Tide, Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND), Burning Pink, Tree Defenders, Fossil Free, Just Stop Oil, Insulate Britain, HS2 Rebellion (or anti-HS2 protestors), or any other arrests associated with climate or environmental activism. I would like this list to be broken down by principle offence, event/location of arrest, and outcome of the arrest. – **Withheld.**
- 2. Number of arrests of individuals affiliated with the following groups: Extinction Rebellion, Ocean Rebellion, Coal Action Network, Right to Roam, Earth First, Youth Strike 4 Climate, Rising Tide,

Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND), Burning Pink, Tree Defenders, Fossil Free, Just Stop Oil, Insulate Britain, HS2 Rebellion (or anti-HS2 protestors), or any other arrests associated with climate or environmental activism since October 2018. I would also like a breakdown by principle offence, event/location of arrest, and outcome of the arrest. – **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 question 2 of this request. 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. Since 20th May 2020 there has been in excess of 20,000 arrests and in order to determine whether any individual is affiliated to one of the named organisations a very labour-intensive manual review of each arrest record would be required and the data manually collated and extracted. Further cross referencing with additional police systems may then also be required.

From dip sampling, it has been estimated that it would take approximately 3 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to upwards of 1,000 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:

- 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, a response could be provided for Question 1.

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:



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

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