

28 August 2024

FOI Ref 17107

Request - You asked us the following:

1. Has your force received any reports of fraud/theft involving certificates of sponsorship since the beginning of this year? If so, how many?
2. If so, have they been referred on to Action Fraud?
3. How many of these cases have been referred back to you by Action Fraud since the beginning of the year for further investigation? How many have you decided to take on for further investigation?
4. In cases where your force has decided not to undertake further investigation, what was the reasoning behind this?
5. Is your force actively investigating any cases of fraud/theft involving certificates of sponsorship? If so, how many?
6. What stage are those investigations at?
7. Has your force concluded any investigations in cases of fraud/theft involving certificates of sponsorship? If so, how many, and did they result in any arrests or charges brought?
8. In cases where charges have been brought, what stage are these cases now at? Have any yet proceeded to court?
9. Can you share the names of any people who have been charged?
10. Does your force have a strategy in place to systematically handle cases involving certificate of sponsorship fraud? If so, what is this strategy?

Refinement:

However I would be really grateful if you can perform keyword searches for "sponsorship" and "certificate of sponsorship", with those caveats.

We received your request on 25/06/2024 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Please find below our response.

Staffordshire Police holds the following requested information.

- However I would be really grateful if you can perform keyword searches for "sponsorship" and "certificate of sponsorship", with those caveats. – **Information held.**

Staffordshire Police discloses/withholds the following information.

- However I would be really grateful if you can perform keyword searches for "sponsorship" and "certificate of sponsorship", with those caveats. – **Disclosed, nil result returned.**



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

Please note that the following data has been retrieved from a search of our incident reporting systems between 01/01/2024 and 25/06/2024 for reports of fraud, for the following keywords within the incident log of each report: 'sponsorship' and 'certificate of sponsorship'.

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.

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