

18 September 2024

FOI Ref 17128

Request - You asked us the following:

- In November 2011, how many officers have did your force have with either Level 1 or 2 Public Order Training? Please provide a breakdown at each level.
- As of 01.08.24, how many officers have did your force have with either Level 1 or 2 Public Order Training? Please provide a breakdown at each level.

We received your request on 06/08/2024 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Please find below our response.

Staffordshire Police holds the following requested information.

- In November 2011, how many officers have did your force have with either Level 1 or 2 Public Order Training? Please provide a breakdown at each level. – **No information held.**
- As of 01.08.24, how many officers have did your force have with either Level 1 or 2 Public Order Training? Please provide a breakdown at each level. – **Information held.**

Staffordshire Police discloses/withholds the following information.

- As of 01.08.24, how many officers have did your force have with either Level 1 or 2 Public Order Training? Please provide a breakdown at each level. – **Partially disclosed, Staffordshire Police had 604 officers with Public Order Training as of 01/08/2024.**

The above information has been withheld for the following reasons:

To provide a breakdown of the officers trained at either Level 1 or Level 2 Public Order Training would impact Staffordshire Police's ability to effectively police protests and disorder, and thus keep the public safe. A cautious approach has to be undertaken for releasing any information under FOI which could be used advantageously by criminals or those with intent to commit crime or cause disruption. It is reasonable to suggest that criminals and gangs intent on instigating violence could use information about specific operational capability and levels of Public Order Officer Training to determine which forces may and may not have greater vulnerability when it comes to policing protests and disorder.

The following exemptions have been applied:

- Section 31 (1) (a) (b) - Law Enforcement.
- Information is exempt from disclosure under S31 (1) (a) (b) where the release of Information would, or would likely to, prejudice the prevention and detection of crime and/or the apprehension or prosecution of

offenders. This exemption 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

To disclose this information would adhere to the basic principle of being open and transparent, it would also lead to a better public awareness of the workings of the police force and the tactics used with operations and during routine policing.

Factors favouring non-disclosure

Releasing such data would give those individuals with the intent to do so, the information required to disrupt police activity. This knowledge would allow those with ill intent to target their offending more effectively which would inevitably lead to an increased likelihood of criminal activity and an increased danger to the public. Any disclosure of information which is likely to undermine the ability to serve the public in preventing and detecting crime can only be considered as being harmful to the public.

Balancing Test

When considering whether disclosure is appropriate, we must weigh the strongest reason for disclosure against the strongest reasons for non-disclosure. In this case, whilst the factors favouring disclosure are important in that it would adhere to the basic principle of being open and transparent, we believe when weighed against the risk of disclosure undermining our ability to prevent and detect crime and hindering our ability to protect the public, then non-disclosure takes precedence.

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.



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

Freedom of Information
Central Disclosure Unit

A safe and confident Staffordshire