

24 September 2024

FOI Ref 17146

Request - You asked us the following:

1. How many arrests were made during the July/August riots following the Southport stabbings? Broken down by gender, age group and ethnicity?

1a) Of these, can you provide the reason for arrest or summary MO?

1b) How many were arrested specifically for racist or religious hate crime

We received your request on 12/08/2024 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 arrests were made during the July/August riots following the Southport stabbings? Broken down by gender, age group and ethnicity?
- 1a) Of these, can you provide the reason for arrest or summary MO?
- 1b) How many were arrested specifically for racist or religious hate crime

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 1,900 occurrences, all of which would require manual review in order to determine whether each related to the riots in question. Further review would then be required to provide a breakdown of gender, age and ethnicity as well as the reason for arrest. To extract this data would therefore require a very labour-intensive manual trawl through each record. From dip sampling, it has been estimated that it would take approximately 10 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to over 316 hours. 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.



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

In order to assist in refining your request. Data could be provided where a Hate Crime flag has been applied and where the arrest has been selected as yes, from 01/07/2024 to 31/08/2024.

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