

20 September 2024

FOI Ref 17147

Request - You asked us the following:

The number of illegal e-bikes confiscated by your force during these periods:

1. Between 12/08/2022 and 11/08/2023
2. Between 12/08/2023 and 11/08/2024

We received your request on 13/08/2024 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.

- The number of illegal e-bikes confiscated by your force during these periods:
 1. Between 12/08/2022 and 11/08/2023
 2. Between 12/08/2023 and 11/08/2024

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 are currently 1000 bikes listed that could fall in to the dates of interest, in order to determine if the bike was electric and to see if it was seized due to being illegal would require a manual trawl through each occurrence which has been estimated to take 5 minutes per record. Furthermore, to determine if the bike was deemed to be illegal it would take an additional 5 minutes to review. Therefore, to extract this data it would 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 166 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 can be provided for how many 'E-bikes' have been seized for your requested time period.

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