

25 September 2024

FOI Ref 17176

Request - You asked us the following:

1) Please can you state for offences recorded by your force, the number in which the crime report text (described as modus operandi reports by many forces) contains a mention of "onlyfans" in each of the following calendar years:

- i) 2019
- ii) 2020
- iii) 2021
- iv) 2022
- v) 2023

Additionally, for part 1 - can you please state the type of crime too please.

2) Please can you provide a redacted copy of the free text crime reports for these offences recorded by your force between July 2023 and July 2024

We received your request on 20/08/2024 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Please find below our response.

Staffordshire Police holds the following requested information.

1) Please can you state for offences recorded by your force, the number in which the crime report text (described as modus operandi reports by many forces) contains a mention of "onlyfans" in each of the following calendar years:

- i) 2019
- ii) 2020
- iii) 2021
- iv) 2022
- v) 2023 – **Information held.**

Additionally, for part 1 - can you please state the type of crime too please. – **Information held.**

2) Please can you provide a redacted copy of the free text crime reports for these offences recorded by your force between July 2023 and July 2024 – **Information held.**

Staffordshire Police discloses the following information.

1) Please can you state for offences recorded by your force, the number in which the crime report text (described as modus operandi reports by many forces) contains a mention of "onlyfans" in each of the following calendar years:

- i) 2019
- ii) 2020
- iii) 2021

iv) 2022

v) 2023 – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled ‘FOI 17176 Onlyfans Crimes Data’.**

Please be advised no offences have occurred in 2019 where the modus operandi includes ‘onlyfans’.

Additionally, for part 1 - can you please state the type of crime too please. – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled ‘FOI 17176 Onlyfans Crimes Data’.**

2) Please can you provide a redacted copy of the free text crime reports for these offences recorded by your force between July 2023 and July 2024 – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled ‘FOI 17176 Onlyfans Crimes Data’.**

Please note that there is 1 offence that is still being investigated so with regard to this case we are citing Section 30(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Investigations conducted by Public Authorities.

This matter is still included within the dataset but is marked ‘*** s30 on-going ***’.

Please note that the data presented has been retrieved by conducting a free text search of our crime/occurrence recording system for the following terms within the occurrence record MO – ‘onlyfans’ or ‘only fans’. This type of search is subjective and is reliant upon the key term or phrase appearing within the specific field of search.

As a result, other occurrences may have been recorded where ‘onlyfans’ has been an element of the offence but this has not been indicated within the MO field of search. Where this is the case, these offences will not be present within this dataset.

The above information has been withheld for the following reasons:

One matter within the dataset provided currently remains ongoing at this time. Disclosure of further details relating to this occurrence at this time would prejudice police activities both for ongoing and future investigations, and would be likely to cause significant harm to the law enforcement function of Staffordshire Police and the administration of justice.

The following exemptions have been applied:

- Section 30(1)(a)(b) – Criminal Investigations
Section 30 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 under Section 30(1)(a)(b)

Disclosure of the information would improve the public’s knowledge and understanding of the investigatory process and, as all police investigations are publicly funded, would show how public funds are being spent.



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Factors favouring non-disclosure under Section 30(1)(a)(b)

Disclosure of the requested information would prejudice how investigations are carried out in the future. Staffordshire Police is charged with enforcing the law, preventing and detecting crime and protecting the communities we serve. Any release of information relating to ongoing investigations could prejudice and undermine those investigations. The prevention and detection of such matters could therefore be hindered and therefore risk interference with evidence, which could have detrimental impact on future investigations. In addition, the right to a fair trial could be undermined.

Balance test

Disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act is a release of information to the world in general and not an individual applicant. Having considered the public interest factors we are required to determine whether on balance the factors favouring disclosure outweigh those which are against disclosure. It is our view that the factors favouring disclosure do not outweigh those which favour non-disclosure.

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. Additional offences may have been recorded during these timescales but are awaiting finalisation and input onto these systems and would not be present within this dataset.

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



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ST16 9JZ

Please remember to quote the reference number in any future communications.

Freedom of Information
Central Disclosure Unit