

23 October 2024

FOI Ref 17182

Request - You asked us the following:

I am seeking up-to-date information about the proportion of police detentions/interviews of suspects and voluntary interviews in which an appropriate adult was provided and for whom legal advice was requested and obtained as recorded by officers for both adults and juveniles.

I would be grateful if you could provide the following data for your force area, for each year for the years ending 9 March 2021, 2022 and 2023:

In relation to adults, please could you indicate the total number of:

(1) authorised detentions

(2) interviews under arrest and

(3) voluntary Interviews.

Then for each these whether '

(a) a pre-interview Risk Assessment was conducted,

(b) an appropriate adult was required

an appropriate adult was provided,

(c) legal advice was requested and

(d) legal advice was provided.

In relation to juveniles, please could you indicate the total number of

(1) authorised detentions

(2) interviews under arrest and

(3) voluntary Interviews.

Then for each these whether

(a) a pre-interview Risk Assessment was conducted,

(b) an appropriate adult was required

an appropriate adult was provided

(c) legal advice was requested

(d) legal advice was provided.

We received your request on 21/08/2024 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Staffordshire Police's response to your enquiry is as follows:

In accordance with Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, this letter represents a refusal notice for this particular request.

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'.

The above information has been withheld for the following reasons:

There is no method by which we can readily retrieve information from our systems to answer this request. For the time period requested, there have been in excess of 43,000 arrests/authorised detentions/voluntary interviews and the records for each of these would require manual review in order to determine whether legal advice or an appropriate adult was requested.

From dip sampling, it has been estimated that it would take approximately 5 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to over 3,583 hours. To achieve this task would therefore exceed the 18-hour time and cost threshold of the FOI Act by some considerable margin.

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 would be able to provide data relating to the number of arrests, interviews under arrest and voluntary interviews for both adults and juveniles, where an appropriate adult and legal advice was provided for for each year for the years ending 9 March 2021, 2022 and 2023.

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



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

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