

15 October 2024

FOI Ref 17239

Request - You asked us the following:

I would like the following figures on your police force's use of dispersal orders under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, for the last two financial years (2021/22, 2022/23):

The total number of times the power was used; The total number of arrests made under the power.

We received your request on 10/09/2024 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 easily retrieve information from our systems to answer part 2 of this request. For the time period requested, there have been in excess of 260,000 incidents. In order to ascertain the total number arrests and the total number of times the power was used under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 would require a trawl through each free text log. 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 4 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to over 17,333 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.

In order to assist in refining your request, should you retract question 2. Data can be provided for question 1, however please note further exemptions may apply.

Next steps

You can ask us to review our response.



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

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