

28 October 2024

FOI Ref 17247

Request - You asked us the following:

1. How many times in the last 5 calendar years has your Police Force broken into the wrong home address by mistake searching for evidence?
2. How many times did your Police Force:
 - a) Use breaking in as a first resort
 - b) Consider and use less intrusive methods of pursuing evidence?
3. What is the highest, lowest and average compensation or restitution paid?

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 readily retrieve the information from our systems to answer questions 1 and 2 of your request. The only way to establish whether or not forced entry was used to gain entry to a premises and then whether or not this was a 'first resort' would be to trawl through hundreds of thousands of incident reports in turn. This would be a very labour-intensive manual process and would 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, if you were to withdraw refine your request by withdrawing questions 1 and 2, data can be provided for question 3 for the last 5 calendars years. However, further exemptions may apply.



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

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