

30 October 2024

FOI Ref 17263

Request - You asked us the following:

How many reports of coercive control post separation have been made and how many have been actioned?

Clarification received from applicant 17/10/2024

Thank you for your response and request for clarity. It is my understanding that there was a change in the law early in 2023 to include coercive control perpetrated post separation, therefore the timeframe would be from that date to the present. Provision of outcomes would be helpful.

We received your request on 17/09/2024 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 information from our systems to answer this request. For the time period requested, there have been in excess of 1,970 occurrences but in order to ascertain whether a Coercive Control Offence involved a couple post separation or not, the record for each offence would require manual review. To extract this data would therefore require a very labour-intensive manual trawl.

From dip sampling, it has been estimated that it would take approximately 3 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to over 98 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. Data can be provided for the total number of Coercive Control Offences for 2023 and the outcome. However, please note 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