

11 December 2024

FOI Ref 17461

Request - You asked us the following:

I am writing to request information under FOI regarding your Special Constabulary. If you do not have a Special Constabulary, please inform me by reply to this message (which I will take to be fully fulfilling your obligations under FOI).

I am requesting the following information:

1. Special Constable Numbers by Patrol Status - October 2024 Please provide the number of Special Constables serving in your force as of the end of October 2024. Where possible, please break this down into the number of APS/DPS Special Constables, and any QSC (irrespective of how many QSC stages have been completed). If your force has not adopted IL4SC, please denote how many officers are IPS or non-IPS.

Additionally, please note how many officers are currently restricted. If this is not possible due to FOI budgetary requirements, this can be omitted.

2. Comparison to 2019

Please provide the number of Special Constables (irrespective of patrol status or suspension) serving in your force either in October 2019, or at the closest point you can capture data from (please clarify the month where possible).

3. Use of DutySheet System

Please confirm if your force uses DutySheet, and if so, how much your force is paying DutySheet (this can be an estimated annual cost) for the Special Constabulary. Note this does not include Police Cadets, PSVs or any other DutySheet database.

4. Budget for Special Constables

Please could you provide figures as to your annual budget for Special Constables forcewide for the 2024-25 financial year?

5. Estimated Cost Savings due to Special Constables If your force has them available, please provide the estimated cost savings your Special Constabulary provides to your force. Note, if the FOI request budget would not allow for this in hours taken to process this request, this question can be omitted.

6. Qualifications and specialty courses

Please provide information as to whether your force currently provides the following training courses to your Special Constables, and if so, what IL4SC (or patrol status) level is required to engage in the course:

- Standard Response
- Advanced Response
- Initial Phase Pursuit (IPP)
- Taser

- Method of Entry (forced entry, whether through lockpulling, enforcer or any other forced entry)
- Public Order Level 3
- Public Order Level 2

We received your request on 13/11/2024 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

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

Staffordshire Police holds some of the requested information.

- I am writing to request information under FOI regarding your Special Constabulary. If you do not have a Special Constabulary, please inform me by reply to this message (which I will take to be fully fulfilling your obligations under FOI).
- I am requesting the following information:
 - 1. Special Constable Numbers by Patrol Status - October 2024
Please provide the number of Special Constables serving in your force as of the end of October 2024. Where possible, please break this down into the number of APS/DPS Special Constables, and any QSC (irrespective of how many QSC stages have been completed). If your force has not adopted IL4SC, please denote how many officers are IPS or non-IPS. – **Disclosed**
Number of Special Constables as of 31st October 2024 - 127 Special Constables
Number of Independent Special Constables - 68 Special Constables
Number of Non-Special Constables - 59 Special Constables
 - Additionally, please note how many officers are currently restricted. If this is not possible due to FOI budgetary requirements, this can be omitted. – **Disclosed, Nil.**
 - 2. Comparison to 2019
Please provide the number of Special Constables (irrespective of patrol status or suspension) serving in your force either in October 2019, or at the closest point you can capture data from (please clarify the month where possible). – **Disclosed, Special Constables in Force in October 2019 - 193 Special Constables.**
 - 3. Use of DutySheet System
Please confirm if your force uses DutySheet, and if so, how much your force is paying DutySheet (this can be an estimated annual cost) for the Special Constabulary. Note this does not include Police Cadets, PSVs or any other DutySheet database. – **Disclosed, yes, approximately £11,000.**
 - 4. Budget for Special Constables
Please could you provide figures as to your annual budget for Special Constables forcewide for the 2024-25 financial year? – **Disclosed, £98,929.**
 - 5. Estimated Cost Savings due to Special Constables If your force has them available, please provide the estimated cost savings your Special Constabulary provides to your force. Note, if the

FOI request budget would not allow for this in hours taken to process this request, this question can be omitted. – **No information held.**

- 6. Qualifications and specialty courses
Please provide information as to whether your force currently provides the following training courses to your Special Constables, and if so, what IL4SC (or patrol status) level is required to engage in the course: - **Disclosed.**
 - Standard Response - **no training provided at the moment.**
 - Advanced Response - **no training provided.**
 - Initial Phase Pursuit (IPP) - **no training provided.**
 - Taser - **no training provided at the moment.**
 - Method of Entry (forced entry, whether through lockpulling, enforcer or any other forced entry) - **training provided.**
 - Public Order Level 3 - **training provided.**
 - Public Order Level 2 - **training provided.****Specials on CMS (Common Minimum Standard) 3 Courses do not need to be independent Status but for all the other courses they have to be of an independent status.**

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.

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.

Freedom of Information Request Appeals Procedure

1. Who Can Ask for a Review

Any person who has requested information from Staffordshire Police, which has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act, is entitled to complain and request an internal review, if they are dissatisfied with the response they received.

2. How to Request a Review

Requests for review of a Freedom of Information request must be made in writing within two months of the date of receipt of this email, and should be addressed to:

foi@staffordshire.police.uk

Or by Post to:

Central Disclosure Unit
Staffordshire Police HQ

PO Box 3167
Stafford
ST16 9JZ

The reference number, date of the request and details of why the review is being requested must be included. Requests for review should be brought to the attention of the Central Disclosure Unit within two months of the Force's response to the original FOI request.

3. Review Procedure

Receipt of a request for review will be acknowledged in writing. The review will be conducted by another Decision Maker who is independent from the original Decision Maker. The Central Disclosure Unit will set a target date for a response. The response will be made as soon as is practicable with the intention to complete the review within 20 working days. In more complex cases the review may take up to 40 working days.

The independent Decision Maker will conduct a review of the handling of the request for information and of decisions taken, including decisions taken about where the public interest lies in respect of exempt information where applicable. The review enables a re-evaluation of the case, taking into account the matters raised by the complaint.

4. Conclusion of the Appeal

On completion of the review the Independent Decision maker will reply to the complainant with the result of the review. If the complainant is still dissatisfied following the review they should contact the Information Commissioner to make an appeal. The Information Commissioner can be contacted via the following details:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

ICO Website for complaints link: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/foi-and-eir-complaints/foi-and-eir-complaints/>

Freedom of Information
Central Disclosure Unit