

12 December 2024

FOI Ref 17536

Request - You asked us the following:

My request relates to police use of new powers to police protests, passed in the Public Order Act 2023.

The list of offence codes 2023 has not been updated to include the new powers, so I am using the section name in the legislation to define each law.

Please note my request has six parts.

1. Between 03/05/2023 and 28/11/2024, how many arrests has your force made under Part One, Section One of the Public Order Act 2023 - the offence of locking on.
For each arrest, please provide the ethnicity of the suspect. Please provide these as totals (e.g. White British = 5; Black Caribbean = 2).
2. Between 03/05/2023 and 28/11/2024, how many arrests has your force made under Part One, Section two of the Public Order Act 2023 - offence of being equipped for locking on.
For each arrest, please provide the ethnicity of the suspect. Please provide these as totals (e.g. White British = 5; Black Caribbean = 2).
3. Between 02/07/2023 and 28/11/2024, how many arrests has your force made under Part One, Section six of the Public Order Act 2023 - obstruction of major transport works
For each arrest, please provide the ethnicity of the suspect. Please provide these as totals (e.g. White British = 5; Black Caribbean = 2).
4. Between 02/07/2023 and 28/11/2024, how many arrests has your force made under Part One, Section seven of the Public Order Act 2023 - interfering with use or operation of key infrastructure
For each arrest, please provide the ethnicity of the suspect. Please provide these as totals (e.g. White British = 5; Black Caribbean = 2).
5. Between 20/12/2023 and 28/11/2024, how many times has your force used stop and search without suspicion powers allowed for under Section 11 - powers to stop and search without suspicion, of the Public Order Act 2023?
For each use of the powers, please provide the ethnicity of the suspect. Please provide these as totals (e.g. White British = 5; Black Caribbean = 2).
6. Between 20/12/2023 and 28/11/2024, how many arrests has your force made under Part One, Section 14 of the Public Order Act 2023 - offences relating to Section 11
For each arrest, please provide the ethnicity of the suspect. Please provide these as totals (e.g. White British = 5; Black Caribbean = 2).

We received your request on 28/11/2024 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

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

Staffordshire Police holds the requested information.

- My request relates to police use of new powers to police protests, passed in the Public Order Act 2023.
 - The list of offence codes 2023 has not been updated to include the new powers, so I am using the section name in the legislation to define each law.
 - Please note my request has six parts.
1. Between 03/05/2023 and 28/11/2024, how many arrests has your force made under Part One, Section One of the Public Order Act 2023 - the offence of locking on. – **Disclosed, nil.**
For each arrest, please provide the ethnicity of the suspect. Please provide these as totals (e.g. White British = 5; Black Caribbean = 2). – **Not applicable.**
 2. Between 03/05/2023 and 28/11/2024, how many arrests has your force made under Part One, Section two of the Public Order Act 2023 - offence of being equipped for locking on. – **Disclosed, nil.**
For each arrest, please provide the ethnicity of the suspect. Please provide these as totals (e.g. White British = 5; Black Caribbean = 2). – **Not applicable.**
 3. Between 02/07/2023 and 28/11/2024, how many arrests has your force made under Part One, Section six of the Public Order Act 2023 - obstruction of major transport works. – **Disclosed, nil.**
For each arrest, please provide the ethnicity of the suspect. Please provide these as totals (e.g. White British = 5; Black Caribbean = 2). – **Not applicable.**
 4. Between 02/07/2023 and 28/11/2024, how many arrests has your force made under Part One, Section seven of the Public Order Act 2023 - interfering with use or operation of key infrastructure. – **Disclosed, nil.**
For each arrest, please provide the ethnicity of the suspect. Please provide these as totals (e.g. White British = 5; Black Caribbean = 2). – **Not applicable.**
 5. Between 20/12/2023 and 28/11/2024, how many times has your force used stop and search without suspicion powers allowed for under Section 11 - powers to stop and search without suspicion, of the Public Order Act 2023? – **Disclosed, nil.**
For each use of the powers, please provide the ethnicity of the suspect. Please provide these as totals (e.g. White British = 5; Black Caribbean = 2). – **Not applicable.**
 6. Between 20/12/2023 and 28/11/2024, how many arrests has your force made under Part One, Section 14 of the Public Order Act 2023 - offences relating to Section 11. – **Disclosed, nil.**
For each arrest, please provide the ethnicity of the suspect. Please provide these as totals (e.g. White British = 5; Black Caribbean = 2). – **Not applicable.**

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. Additional arrests may have been recorded during these

timescales but are awaiting finalisation and input onto these systems and would not be present within this dataset.

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



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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