

9 December 2024

FOI Ref 17549

Request - You asked us the following:

I would like to submit a Freedom of Information request for the following data:

1. The number of racially and/or religiously aggravated offences (including racist and religious hate crimes and hate incidents) reported to Staffordshire Police.
2. The number of people charged with racially and/or religiously aggravated offences (including racist and religious hate crimes and hate incidents)

I request that this data be provided for the calendar years 2016 to 2024 (inclusive), and broken down as follows:

- Month and year
- Type of offence
- Ethnicity and/or race of the alleged perpetrator
- Ethnicity and/or race of the victim

We received your request on 04/12/2024 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 exemption has 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. Within the specified time period, there were over 7,000 race and religion hate crimes that did not have any ethnicity recorded. The only way to identify each person's ethnicity would be to carry out a very labour-intensive manual trawl through each crime report in turn. It has been estimated that to answer this request will take approximately 3 minutes to review each record which equates to 350 hours. To achieve this task would exceed the 18-hour time and cost threshold of the FOI Act.

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 your specified time period where either the racial or religious hate crime flag is applied, with the outcome broken down by charge and offence. Likewise for part 2 of your request, data could be provided from our crime/occurrence recording database where this is recorded as a non crime hate incident, and where the flag includes either 'racial' or 'religion' broken down by year.

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.



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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