

19 December 2024

FOI Ref 17555

Request - You asked us the following:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request the following information:

1.
ICO Referrals
 - How many data breaches have been referred to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) by Staffordshire Police in the last 36 months?
2.
Unreported Data Breaches
 - How many data breaches have been identified by Staffordshire Police in the last 36 months but were not referred to the ICO?
3.
Data Breaches in Sexual Offence Cases
 - How many data breaches involving criminal investigations into sexual offences have been identified and reported to the ICO by Staffordshire Police in the last 36 months?
4.
Data Breaches in Other Criminal Cases
 - How many data breaches involving all other criminal investigations have been identified and reported to the ICO by Staffordshire Police in the last 36 months?
5.
CPS Data Handling Breaches
 - How many incidents have been identified where material provided to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) by Staffordshire Police was improperly redacted, leading to a data breach, in the last 36 months?
6.
Records of Data Breaches
 - Does Staffordshire Police maintain a centralised record of all identified data breach incidents, including breaches involving the CPS? If yes, what procedures are in place to ensure these are documented and acted upon?
7.
Disciplinary Actions for Data Breaches

- How many disciplinary actions have been taken against Staffordshire Police officers or staff in relation to data breaches in the last 36 months?

8.
Training and Prevention

- What training or measures have been implemented by Staffordshire Police to prevent data breaches, particularly in cases involving sensitive or unredacted materials?

9.
Systematic Reviews

- Has Staffordshire Police conducted any systematic reviews or audits of data handling practices in the last 36 months? If so, were any recommendations made or actions taken to address deficiencies?

We received your request on 05/12/2024 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.

- 1.ICO Referrals

How many data breaches have been referred to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) by Staffordshire Police in the last 36 months? – **Disclosed, 10.**

- 2.Unreported Data Breaches

How many data breaches have been identified by Staffordshire Police in the last 36 months but were not referred to the ICO? – **Disclosed, 2033.**

- 3.Data Breaches in Sexual Offence Cases

How many data breaches involving criminal investigations into sexual offences have been identified and reported to the ICO by Staffordshire Police in the last 36 months? – **Disclosed,0.**

Please note that the data was obtained by searching for the keyword 'sex' in the 'Details of Incident' section and manually reviewing these results.

- 4.Data Breaches in Other Criminal Cases

How many data breaches involving all other criminal investigations have been identified and reported to the ICO by Staffordshire Police in the last 36 months? – **Disclosed, 5.**

Please note, this includes instances where the breach was not during or directly linked to investigations.

- 5.CPS Data Handling Breaches

How many incidents have been identified where material provided to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) by Staffordshire Police was improperly redacted, leading to a data breach, in the last 36 months? – **Disclosed, 7.**

Please note, that the data was obtained by searching for the keyword 'CPS' in 'Details of Incident' and manually reviewing these results.

- 6. Records of Data Breaches

Does Staffordshire Police maintain a centralised record of all identified data breach incidents, including breaches involving the CPS? If yes, what procedures are in place to ensure these are documented and acted upon? – **Disclosed, yes a centralised record is maintained. The relevant procedures included Force Information Security Procedure - Security Incident Reporting and Data Protection - Security Incident Response for Breaches of Personal Data**

- 7. Disciplinary Actions for Data Breaches

How many disciplinary actions have been taken against Staffordshire Police officers or staff in relation to data breaches in the last 36 months? – **Disclosed, 10 officers/staff have been subject to disciplinary actions as a result to an allegation of a data breach between 05/12/2021 to 05/12/2024.**

- 8. Training and Prevention

What training or measures have been implemented by Staffordshire Police to prevent data breaches, particularly in cases involving sensitive or unredacted materials? – **Disclosed, Staffordshire Police mandates completion of the 'Managing Information' and 'Government Security Classification'. Online courses provided by the College of Policing. Departments and Units will also carry out their own specific on-the-job training/mentoring.**

- 9. Systematic Reviews

Has Staffordshire Police conducted any systematic reviews or audits of data handling practices in the last 36 months? If so, were any recommendations made or actions taken to address deficiencies? – **Disclosed, yes reviews and audits are undertaken and recommendations were made.**

Please be advised this data has been extracted from 05/12/2021 to 05/12/2024

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.

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:



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

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