

15 May 2026

FOI Ref 22881

**Request - You asked Staffordshire Police (SP) the following:**

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding criminal activity, vehicle seizures and write-offs involving cars registered to the Motability Scheme specifically in relation to drug offences.

Please provide the following information for each calendar year from 2020 to the present (or the most recent available data):

- Total Number of Vehicles Stopped and/or Seized: The total number of Motability Scheme vehicles stopped or seized by your force in connection with drug-related offences, including those stopped but not formally seized.
- Of those stopped and/or seized, how many were specifically related to:
  - Drug possession
  - Drug dealing (supply/intent to supply)
  - Drug driving
- Arrests: The number of individuals arrested whilst driving or occupying a Motability Scheme vehicle in connection with a drug offence.
- Vehicle Status: The number of Motability vehicles recorded as "written off" following a police pursuit or criminal incident relating to drugs.
- Tracking/Interception: If held, the number of Motability vehicles stopped as a result of ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) or a tracker activation in connection with a drug-related offence.

Technical search note: If a manual trawl of all crime reports would exceed the cost limit, please search your vehicle seizure database (e.g., ELVIS or similar recovery systems) using the keyword "Motability" or by cross-referencing seized V5C details with known Motability fleet markers.

Please provide this data in a simple spreadsheet or PDF format.

SP received your request on 14/05/2026 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

SP'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 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. For the time period requested, there have been in excess of 5,200 vehicles seized. In order to determine whether the vehicle was on the Motability Scheme, the record for each seized vehicle and crime occurrence would require a manual review. Additionally, further checks would need to be carried out to establish if the seizure was related to a drug offence, whether any arrests occurred and what the status of the vehicle is. To extract this data would therefore require a very labour-intensive manual trawl through each record.

From dip sampling, it has been estimated that it would take approximately 10 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to over 866 hours. To achieve this task would therefore exceed the 18-hour time and cost threshold of the Freedom of Information Act by a considerable margin.

**Advice and assistance**

Section 16 of the Act places an obligation upon the Authority to provide advice and assistance, to comply with this obligation please see below.

Unfortunately, SP cannot suggest a way in which your request could be simplified or pared down to bring it within the confines of the time and cost threshold.

Please be advised that a free text word search for the term 'Motability' has also been carried out on SPs crime recording database involving the vehicle seizures and this returned nil results.

Please be advised that all Freedom of Information request responses are published on the SP website although personal details are not included.

**Freedom of Information Request Appeals Procedure**

**1. Who Can Ask for a Review**

Any person who has requested information from SP, 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:

[IAT@staffordshire.police.uk](mailto:IAT@staffordshire.police.uk)



STAFFORDSHIRE  
**POLICE**

Or by Post to:

Information Access Team  
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 Information Access Team 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 a supervisor who is independent from the original Decision Maker. The Information Access Team 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 Supervisor 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, considering the matters raised by the complaint.

### **4. Conclusion of the Appeal**

On completion of the review the Independent Supervisor will reply to the appellant with the result of the review. If the appellant 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 link: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/foi-and-eir-complaints/foi-and-eir-complaints/>

Freedom of Information  
Information Access Team