



20 November 2024

FOI Ref 17412

Request - You asked us the following:

Question 1 Number of Subject Access Requests (SAR) the force received in:

2021

2022

2023

Question 2 Number of SARs complied with, within the statutory time limit in

2021

2022

2023

Question 3 Number of SARs complied with in full in

2021

2022

2023

Question 4 Number of SARs part complied with in

2021

2022

2023

Question 5 Number of SARs not complied with in

2021

2022

2023

Question 6 In cases where SARs were late, part complied or not complied with how many of the subjects were active complainants (active complaints with the police – against the police) in

2021

2022

2023

Question 7 In cases where SARs were late, part complied or not complied with how many of the subjects were past complainants (past complaints with the police – against the police) in

2021

2022

2023

Additional questions (if time and resources permit):

Question 8 In cases where SARs were late what reasons were given, if any?

Question 9 In cases where SARs were part complied with, what reasons were given, if any?

Question 10 In cases where SARs were not complied with, what reasons were given, if any?

CLARIFICATION RECEIVED ON 18/11/2024

By 'part complied with' - where subjects didn't receive a full disclosure for their SAR (ie the Force provided some of the requested data).

By 'not complied with' - where the subject received no disclosure for their SAR (ie the Force provided none of the requested data).

We received your request on 28/10/2024 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 easily retrieve information from our systems to answer questions 3, 4 and 6-10 of this request. A manual trawl of upwards of 1800 records, their response letters and any associated emails would be required in order to determine whether the recipient had:

- Received a full or partial disclosure and subsequently been provided a reason for this
- Received a late response and subsequently been provided a reason for this
- Received a rejection or the request had not been complied with and subsequently been provided a reason for this.

Further cross reference of the resulting records with additional police systems would then also be required to determine whether the applicant had been, or was currently, a complainant against the police. These tasks would take approximately 10 minutes per record, equating to upward of 300 hours which would exceed the 18 hour time and cost threshold prescribed within the Act by some considerable margin.

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 refine your request, data can be provided for questions 1, 2 and 5 if you were to retract the remaining questions.

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.



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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