

5 November 2024

FOI Ref 17413

**Request - You asked us the following:**

I would like to know how many arrests you made under Section 127 of the Communications Act 2003 in the following years: 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, and the first nine months of 2024. Please can you provide separate figures for each year.

In a separate table, please can you provide the number of arrests you made under Section 1 of the Malicious Communications Act 1988, over the same time period and in the same year-by-year breakdown.

We received your request on 29/10/2024 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 exemptions have 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:**

This is because on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2020 Staffordshire Police implemented a new case management system. This system brought data from a number of legacy systems into one to provide a single nominal record, including the custody system. The old custody system has now been decommissioned and as a result there is no readily retrievable search facility to be able to retrieve the requested data. It would entail manually searching thousands of records to establish which custody records fitted the criteria of the request. To achieve this task would exceed the 18-hour time and cost threshold stipulated by 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.

If you were to refine your request, data can be provided in full for both questions from 20<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

**Next steps**

You can ask us to review our response.



STAFFORDSHIRE  
**POLICE**

If you would like us to carry out a review of our response, please let us know within two months of the date of receipt of this email, review requests should be addressed to:

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

Or by Post to:

Central Disclosure Unit  
Staffordshire Police HQ  
PO Box 3167  
Stafford  
ST16 9JZ

Please remember to quote the reference number in any future communications.

Freedom of Information  
Central Disclosure Unit