

7 November 2024

FOI Ref 17425

Request - You asked us the following:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, please could I be provided with the following information for the Christmas/New year period (December and January) in your local policing area in 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023:

- The total number of burglary cases reported to your force, broken down by Local Policing Area.
- The number of burglary cases where something was stolen and there's clear evidence entry was forced, broken down by Local Policing Area.
- The number of burglary cases where the something was stolen but entry was not forced/violent and therefore the case was dropped, broken down by Local Policing Area.

We received your request on 31/10/2024 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:

There is no method by which we can easily retrieve information from our systems to answer this request. For the time period requested, there have been in excess of 2,300 reports of burglaries, in order to ascertain whether these involved forced entry or not the record for each incident would require a manual review. 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 4 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to over 153 hours. To achieve this task would therefore exceed the 18-hour time and cost threshold of the FOI 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.



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

To assist in refining your request, data can be provided for all reports of burglary incidents in the time period requested. Data can also be provided for the number of burglary offences that are crimes along with the outcomes of these offences in the time period requested.

Next steps

You can ask us to review our response.

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

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