



26 November 2024

FOI Ref 17506

Request - You asked us the following:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding motorists who have been arrested over the festive period during the past five years (2019 to 2023). Specifically, I am requesting the following information:

1. The Number of Arrests
 1. The total number of motorists arrested on:
 1. Christmas Eve
 2. Christmas Day
 3. Boxing Day
 4. New Year's Eve
 5. New Year's Day
 2. Details of Arrests
 1. The offences for which they were arrested, including but not limited to:
 1. Speeding
 2. Drink driving
 3. Drug driving
 4. Dangerous or reckless driving
 5. Other motoring offences
 3. Severity of the Incidents
 1. The context or severity of each incident, such as:
 1. Whether the driver was pulled over or involved in an accident
 2. What the driver was driving or riding
 3. If there were any fatalities or injuries, and the severity of these outcomes
 4. Demographic Information
 1. The age and gender of:
 1. The perpetrators (arrested motorists)
 2. Any victims involved (where applicable)
 5. Incident Summaries
 1. If feasible, I would like to request a brief description of the incidents.

We received your request on 22/11/2024 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:

This is because on 20th 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 search facility to be able to retrieve the requested data. It would entail searching thousands of records to establish if it 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.

To assist in refining your request, data can be provided for the total number of arrests over the festive periods from 24th December 2020 until 1st January 2024. The arrest reasons will include all speeding, drink driving, drug driving, dangerous or reckless driving and other motoring offences. The age and gender of the detainee can also be provided.

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:

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