

3 October 2024

FOI Ref 16795

Request - You asked us the following:

Can you please provide me with the following information:

- 1) Please can you list the communications equipment provided to a front-line officer at the start of a shift?:
- 2) How does the officer collect this equipment at the start of their shift? (personal locker, stores, centralised collection point) can your answer detail the collection method for each piece of equipment listed in answer 1
- 3) In regards to the equipment listed in question 1 please can you detail the volume and value of equipment lost for the last calendar year (2023)? Can your answer be listed by equipment type rather than in total.
- 4) In regards to the equipment listed in question 1 please can you detail the volume and value of equipment damaged for the last calendar year (2023)? Can your answer be listed by equipment type rather than in total.
- 5) How are these specific items stored when not in use?
 - a. Airwave Radio –
 - b. Body Worn Video –
 - c. Tazer –
- 6) Do the devices listed in question 5 need to be recharged between shifts?
- 7) Is there an officer or officers responsible for the security of the devices listed in question 5. Please can you provide their job titles.

We received your request on 19/04/2024 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Please find below our response.

Staffordshire Police holds the following requested information.

1. Please can you list the communications equipment provided to a front-line officer at the start of a shift? – **Information held.**
2. How does the officer collect this equipment at the start of their shift? (personal locker, stores, centralised collection point) can your answer detail the collection method for each piece of equipment listed in answer 1 – **Information held.**



3. In regards to the equipment listed in question 1 please can you detail the volume and value of equipment lost for the last calendar year (2023)? Can your answer be listed by equipment type rather than in total. – **Information held.**
4. In regards to the equipment listed in question 1 please can you detail the volume and value of equipment damaged for the last calendar year (2023)? Can your answer be listed by equipment type rather than in total. – **Partial information held.**
5. How are these specific items stored when not in use?
 - a. Airwave Radio – **Information held.**
 - b. Body Worn Video – **Information held.**
 - c. Tazer – **Information held.**
6. Do the devices listed in question 5 need to be recharged between shifts? – **Information held.**
7. Is there an officer or officers responsible for the security of the devices listed in question 5. Please can you provide their job titles. – **Information held.**

Staffordshire Police discloses/withholds the following information.

1. Please can you list the communications equipment provided to a front-line officer at the start of a shift? – **Disclosed, Airwave Radio and PDA/Mobile Phone.**
2. How does the officer collect this equipment at the start of their shift? (personal locker, stores, centralised collection point) can your answer detail the collection method for each piece of equipment listed in answer 1 – **Disclosed, both are personally issued and stored in lockers.**
3. In regards to the equipment listed in question 1 please can you detail the volume and value of equipment lost for the last calendar year (2023)? Can your answer be listed by equipment type rather than in total. – **Partially disclosed, in 2023 there were 50 mobile phones reported lost at an approximate cost of £25,000, and 5 Airwave Radios reported lost.**
4. In regards to the equipment listed in question 1 please can you detail the volume and value of equipment damaged for the last calendar year (2023)? Can your answer be listed by equipment type rather than in total. – **Disclosed, in 2023 there were 48 mobile phones reported damaged at an approximate cost of £24,000, information is not held regarding damaged Airwave Radios.**
5. How are these specific items stored when not in use?
 - a. Airwave Radio – **Disclosed, personal locker.**
 - b. Body Worn Video – **Disclosed, personal locker.**
 - c. Tazer – **Disclosed, secure Taser storage safe.**
6. Do the devices listed in question 5 need to be recharged between shifts? – **Disclosed, Airwave do not require recharge between shifts, Body Worn Video needs to be docked to download and recharged and Taser devices have a built in battery which does not get recharged. Operational checks are completed at the commencement of each shift with the devices indicating battery life remaining.**

7. Is there an officer or officers responsible for the security of the devices listed in question 5. Please can you provide their job titles. – **Disclosed, Airwave and Body Worn Video is the personal responsibility of each officer. For Tasers, overall responsibility sits with the Chief Taser Instructor.**

The above information has been withheld for the following reasons:

The information relating to the value of lost Airwave radios, if released into the public domain, would harm Staffordshire Police's negotiating position with regards to future contracts for equipment or services. There are commercially confidential clauses within the Airwave radio contracts which are not permitted to be shared to the wider public.

The following exemptions have been applied:

- Section 43 – Commercial Interests
This is a class based qualified exemption which means there is no requirement to provide evidence of harm but a public interest test needs to be considered.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring disclosure

Disclosure of the requested information would allow the public to be aware of how public funds are spent or allocated and thereby would provide transparency and accountability, showing that funds from the public purse are used appropriately and proportionally.

Factors favouring non-disclosure

Through disclosure of the requested information, Staffordshire Police would find that its negotiating position would be greatly impaired through the release of details that would not only likely be prejudicial to Staffordshire Police but also to the agencies/companies involved. Releasing this information would be expected to have a detrimental effect on their ability to be competitive in the future and would be exceedingly likely to deter further enterprises submitting offers for tender in the future. This then would impede Staffordshire Police obtaining the most competitive or appropriate services in the future and negatively impact upon the public purse.

Balance test

It is the responsibility of Staffordshire Police, when dealing with commercial businesses, to not only protect their commercial interest but also that of Staffordshire Police. Commercial interests must be protected so that the best possible value for money is obtained through open competition, both for businesses and Staffordshire Police. This would not be achieved if full details were to be made available to the market. Although the use of public funds must be open and transparent, Staffordshire Police is accountable for the money that it spends and utilises and if to release the information means the force is unable to negotiate future tendering and have the ability to secure value for money due to business relationships have been impaired, then this would not be in the public interest.



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Having considered the public interest test factors, we are required to determine whether, on balance, the factors favouring disclosure outweigh those which are against disclosure. It is our view that the factors favouring disclosure do not outweigh those which favour withholding the details. Therefore, Staffordshire Police declines to provide the information for the reasons stated above.

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