

2 October 2024

FOI Ref 17139

Request - You asked us the following:

I am making this request on behalf of ACTS FAST, a Dorset-based charity which supports family members across the country who have been impacted by child sexual abuse, and family members and partners of individuals who have accessed Indecent Images of Children (IIOC).

As part of our ongoing research, we are seeking to identify the prevalence and apparent increase of this type of offending behaviour, with a view to illustrating just how many families are being impacted by IIOC. Non-offending partners and child family members are secondary victims and require ongoing support to address and manage the traumatic impact that occurs when the warrant is executed.

Section 1 of the Protection of Children Act 1978 and section 160 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 are the two main statutes that legislate offences around Indecent Images of Children.

We are seeking to gather information from all Police Forces on the following:

- How many search warrants under Section 1 of the Protection of Children Act 1978 and Section 160 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 have been executed each year over the last 10 years, from 2014 to 2024. Whilst I appreciate it is unlikely we will be able to ascertain whether or not partners or children were present at the time of the warrant being executed, it is important that we gather as much information as possible to demonstrate the true scale of this crime.

We received your request on 09/08/2024 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Please find below our response.

In accordance with Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, this letter represents a refusal notice for this particular request

The above request has been rejected for the following reasons:

There is no method by which we can easily identify or locate whether information is held within Staffordshire Police systems to answer part of this request. This is due to there being no search facility to be able to retrieve the requested data prior to 2016. In order to determine how many search warrants under Section 1 of the Protection of Children Act 1978 and Section 160 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 have been executed, 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.

The following exemptions have been applied:

- Section 12(2) In order to identify whether or not information is or isn't held would exceed the cost threshold in accordance with Section 12(2) of the Freedom of Information Act as in order to satisfy S1(1)(a) of the Act would exceed the cost threshold.



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

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 assist with refining your request, data could be provided from 2016 to 2024, broken down by year. However, please note further exemptions may apply.

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