

30 September 2024

FOI Ref 17140

Request - You asked us the following:

I would be grateful if you could advise me of the protocol to request information from yourselves?

There is a command and control log in existence [REDACTED] that should give you some steerage as to why this is being requested.

We are currently engaged on the clearance of a huge quantity of fireworks from the old ROF site at the location at the bottom of this email.

In order to do our due diligence for HSE licensing, and to be able to assess potential issues whilst conducting the disposals, it would be helpful if we could have knowledge of any incidents that have been reported by local residents over the past 5 years.

Such incidents being anti-social behaviour, loud bangs, noise pollution, smoke, acrid smells etc.

This would enable the Environment Agency to assess whether some of our disposal methods may give concern to local residents.

It is obvious to us from examining the site that unauthorised destruction of fireworks has taken place here and despite its comparatively isolated location these may have been reported.

Obviously we would not ask for any personal data held, just details of the incident and times, dates etc.

Any advice you can give me would be gratefully received, and if you could supply the relevant form that would be welcome

Clarification received from applicant 24/09/2024

Anti social behaviour would be one
Noise, explosions or possible firearm discharges
Reports of smoke or fires that may have been forwarded to the fire service
Possible unlicensed parties, raves or the like.
Trespassers.
Persons on enclosed premises.
Youths causing annoyance.
Poachers? It is rural.
Suspicious circumstances.

I understand your need to narrow down the search parameters but I may not know how your call handlers would be trained to categorise certain calls. I would ask if some thought by yourselves could be given to this as you may be able to assist.



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

Further clarification received from applicant 24/09/2024

It would be helpful if you could analyse, and provide the information, for logs referring to Anti Social Behaviour, where the log specifically contains the word firework(s).
Please limit the search to an area of 1.5km radius from Upper Hatton Compound. Common Lane, Hatton. ST21 6SD.

It would also be helpful if you could filter out the dates in the previous 5 years when fireworks may have been in common use.

Bonfire Night. New Years Eve. Chinese New Year. Diwali.

In order to assist, I have listed the dates for the above festivals. Where the festivals have fallen over a weekend, I have extended the dates to cover potential alternative dates.

November 5th.

2021 please exclude Saturday 6th.

2023 please exclude Saturday 4th.

Diwali. (4-day festival)

2019 - please exclude 25th - 29th October.

2020 - please exclude 12th - 16th November.

2021 - please exclude 2nd - 6th November.

2022 - please exclude 22nd - 26th October.

2023 - please exclude 10th - 14th November.

Chinese New Year.

2019 - 5th Feb.

2020 - 25th Jan.

2021 - 12th Feb.

2022 - 1st Feb.

2023 - 22nd Jan.

I appreciate that filtering the dates as requested may be problematic. If this is the case, then any incidents as per the above criteria of locus, distance and 'fireworks' would be fine.

Additional clarification received from applicant 24/09/2024

Thank you for your very prompt reply to my email request. The provisions set by yourselves are absolutely fine and am grateful for your help in this matter

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

Please find below our response.

Staffordshire Police holds the following information.

I would be grateful if you could advise me of the protocol to request information from yourselves?

There is a command and control log in existence [REDACTED] that should give you some steerage as to why this is being requested.

We are currently engaged on the clearance of a huge quantity of fireworks from the old ROF site at the location at the bottom of this email.

In order to do our due diligence for HSE licensing, and to be able to assess potential issues whilst conducting the disposals, it would be helpful if we could have knowledge of any incidents that have been reported by local residents over the past 5 years.

Such incidents being anti-social behaviour, loud bangs, noise pollution, smoke, acrid smells etc.

This would enable the Environment Agency to assess whether some of our disposal methods may give concern to local residents.

It is obvious to us from examining the site that unauthorised destruction of fireworks has taken place here and despite it comparatively isolated location these may have been reported.

Obviously we would not ask for any personal data held, just details of the incident and times, dates etc.

Any advice you can give me would be gratefully received, and if you could supply the relevant form that would be welcome – **Question withdrawn.**

Clarification received from applicant 24/09/2024

Anti social behaviour would be one

Noise, explosions or possible firearm discharges

Reports of smoke or fires that may have been forwarded to the fire service

Possible unlicensed parties, raves or the like.

Trespassers.

Persons on enclosed premises.

Youths causing annoyance.

Poachers? It is rural.

Suspicious circumstances.

I understand your need to narrow down the search parameters but I may not know how your call handlers would be trained to categorise certain calls. I would ask if some thought by yourselves could be given to this as you may be able to be able to assist. – **Question withdrawn.**

Further clarification received from applicant 24/09/2024

- 1. It would be helpful if you could analyse, and provide the information, for logs referring to Anti Social Behaviour, where the log specifically contains the word firework(s). – **Information held.**
- 2. Please limit the search to an area of 1.5km radius from Upper Hatton Compound. Common Lane, Hatton. ST21 6SD. – **Question withdrawn.**
- 3. It would also be helpful if you could filter out the dates in the previous 5 years when fireworks may have been in common use.
Bonfire Night. New Years Eve. Chinese New Year. Diwali.
In order to assist, I have listed the dates for the above festivals. Where the festivals have fallen over a weekend, I have extended the dates to cover potential alternative dates.
November 5th.



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

2021 please exclude Saturday 6th.
2023 please exclude Saturday 4th.
Diwali. (4-day festival)
2019 - please exclude 25th - 29th October.
2020 - please exclude 12th - 16th November.
2021 - please exclude 2nd - 6th November.
2022 - please exclude 22nd - 26th October.
2023 - please exclude 10th - 14th November.
Chinese New Year.
2019 - 5th Feb.
2020 - 25th Jan.
2021 - 12th Feb.
2022 - 1st Feb.
2023 - 22nd Jan.

I appreciate that filtering the dates as requested may be problematic. If this is the case, then any incidents as per the above criteria of locus, distance and 'fireworks' would be fine. – **Information held.**

Staffordshire Police discloses the following information.

- 1. It would be helpful if you could analyse, and provide the information, for logs referring to Anti Social Behaviour, where the log specifically contains the word firework(s). – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 17140 Reported Firework Incidents Data'.**

- 3. It would also be helpful if you could filter out the dates in the previous 5 years when fireworks may have been in common use.

Bonfire Night. New Years Eve. Chinese New Year. Diwali.

In order to assist, I have listed the dates for the above festivals. Where the festivals have fallen over a weekend, I have extended the dates to cover potential alternative dates.

November 5th.

2021 please exclude Saturday 6th.

2023 please exclude Saturday 4th.

Diwali. (4-day festival)

2019 - please exclude 25th - 29th October.

2020 - please exclude 12th - 16th November.

2021 - please exclude 2nd - 6th November.

2022 - please exclude 22nd - 26th October.

2023 - please exclude 10th - 14th November.

Chinese New Year.

2019 - 5th Feb.

2020 - 25th Jan.

2021 - 12th Feb.

2022 - 1st Feb.

2023 - 22nd Jan.

I appreciate that filtering the dates as requested may be problematic. If this is the case, then any incidents as per the above criteria of locus, distance and 'fireworks' would be fine. – **Disclosed, Please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 17140 Reported Firework Incidents Data'.**

Please note as agreed with the applicant, the data presented has been retrieved by conducting a free text search of our Crime/Occurrence recording system, from 09/08/2019 to 09/08/2024 (the date we received your request). Furthermore, the data disclosed does not include the dates specified. The data has been disclosed for the following terms within the occurrence record MO – 'fireworks' or 'firework' and where the call type description has been recorded as 'ASB'. This type of search is subjective and is reliant upon the key term or phrase appearing within the specific field of search.

Staffordshire Police can neither confirm or deny that it holds the information you requested as it believes that the duty under s1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the duty to confirm whether the public authority holds information of the specified description) does not apply

The following exemption has been applied:

- Section 40 (5) – Personal Information

Section 40(5) is an absolute exemption which means that there is no need to quantify the harm that may arise from the disclosure; neither is it subject to a public interest test.

To release personal or third-party information which may or may not be held by Staffordshire Police would breach the data protection principles, namely –

- Data is lawfully and fairly processed.
- Processed in line with an individual's rights.
- Data is secure.

Please be advised Section 40 (5) has been cited, due to the command and control log number.

Please note that this data has been provided to the best of our ability, subject to the limitation of current recording protocols and systems/software. Additional incidents may have been recorded during these timescales but are awaiting finalisation and input onto these systems and would not be present within this dataset.

Every effort is made to ensure that the data presented is accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that this has been extracted from multiple sources, developed for specific policing purposes, for which data extraction methods have not been specifically designed to directly correlate with the terminology of this request. Therefore, the data presented is subject to the inaccuracies and idiosyncrasies inherent in any large-scale recording system.

As a consequence, care should be taken in the interpretation and presentation of this data, so as to not misrepresent the whole or any part of the data disclosed.

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

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