

1 October 2024

FOI Ref 17217

Request - You asked us the following:

Please supply the following information for each of the last three calendar years (1st January 2021 - 31st December 2021, 1st January 2022 - 31st December 2022 and 1st January 2023 - 31st December 2023):

Q1) How many reports did your force receive of counterfeit money being used to pay for goods/services?

Q2) In relation to Q1, how many arrests were made?

We received your request on 02/09/2024 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.

Staffordshire Police withholds the following information.

- Q1) How many reports did your force receive of counterfeit money being used to pay for goods/services? – **Withheld.**
- Q2) In relation to Q1, how many arrests were made? – **Withheld.**

The above information has been withheld for the following reasons:

There is no method by which we can readily retrieve information from our systems to answer this request. For the time period requested, there have been in excess of 500 reports of fraud or forgery, which may or may not relate to counterfeit money being used to pay for goods or services. In order to ascertain whether the report does involve counterfeit money being used to pay for goods or services, the record for each report would require manual review.

From dip sampling, it has been estimated that it would take approximately 5 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to over 41 hours. To achieve this task would therefore exceed the 18-hour time and cost threshold of the Freedom of Information Act by some considerable margin.

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'.



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.

If question 1 was withdrawn, Staffordshire Police would be able to provide information relating to the number of arrests made between 01/01/2021 and 31/12/2023 for the following reasons:

- Tender as genuine a thing knowing it was a counterfeit of a currency note.
- Deliver a thing knowing / believing it to be a counterfeit note with intent.
- Tender as genuine a thing knowing it was a counterfeit of a protected coin.
- Deliver a counterfeit of a protected coin with intent.

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