

7 October 2024

FOI Ref 17223

Request - You asked us the following:

On the 1 Sep 2024, could you please tell me how many police officers investigating a child abuse case as part of their workload was a trainee officer (i.e. someone who had not passed their two year probationary period and had not had any other policing experience at another force)? I just want a snapshot of the experience level of the officers investigating a child abuse case (unsupervised) in your force on that particular day. Could you tell me the total number of officers who were investigating a child abuse case on the 1 September as well please.

Clarification received 04/09/2024:

*Just to clarify, by child abuse I am referring to non-familial sexual child abuse investigations

We received your request on 04/09/2024 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 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'.

The above information has been withheld for the following reasons:

There is no method by which we can easily retrieve information from our systems to answer this request. On the date requested, there were over 190 officers working within the unit which would most likely deal with child abuse investigations (PPU Child). Each of the officers' caseloads would need to be cross-examined in order to determine whether they were working on a child abuse investigation on this date. There may also be other officers within other units in the force who may also be working on a child abuse investigation, therefore all officers' caseloads would require examination.

From dip sampling, it has been estimated that it would take approximately 10 - 15 minutes to review each caseload to answer this request, this would equate to between 31 and 47 hours for the PPU Child unit alone. To achieve this task would therefore exceed the 18-hour time and cost threshold of the Freedom of Information Act by some considerable margin.



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.

Unfortunately, we cannot suggest a way in which your request could be simplified or pared down in order to bring it within the confines of the time and cost threshold.

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