

7 October 2024

FOI Ref 17233

Request - You asked us the following:

1. The number of crimes involving individuals under the age of 18, either as suspects or victims in the last three years? [Between April 6 - April 5 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023,24] Can the figures be broken down by year and separated by the number of victims and the number of suspects.

1a) Of those, how many pertain to violent crimes? Broken down by year and separated by victim / suspect. *By violent crimes, I refer to any act that physically harms or threatens to harm another person, or includes the use of a weapon. Such as assault, gun/knife crimes, sexual violence etc.

2. For the last year alone [Between April 6- April 5 2023/24], can you provide the 10 most common crimes/offences involving under 18s (as either suspects or victims). Can you include the name of the offence and the number of offences.

We received your request on 06/09/2024 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Staffordshire Police's response to your enquiry is as follows:

Staffordshire Police holds the requested information.

- The number of crimes involving individuals under the age of 18, either as suspects or victims in the last three years? [Between April 6 - April 5 2021/22, 2022/23, 2023,24] Can the figures be broken down by year and separated by the number of victims and the number of suspects. – **Partially disclosed, please see accompanying file titled 'FOI 17233 Crimes Involving Under 18s Data.PDF'.**
- Of those, how many pertain to violent crimes? Broken down by year and separated by victim / suspect.
By violent crimes, I refer to any act that physically harms or threatens to harm another person, or includes the use of a weapon. Such as assault, gun/knife crimes, sexual violence etc. – **Partially disclosed, please see accompanying file titled 'FOI 17233 Crimes Involving Under 18s Data.PDF'.**
- For the last year alone [Between April 6- April 5 2023/24], can you provide the 10 most common crimes/offences involving under 18s (as either suspects or victims). Can you include the name of the offence and the number of offences. – **Partially disclosed, please see accompanying file titled 'FOI 17233 Crimes Involving Under 18s Data.PDF'.**



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The following exemptions have been applied:

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

- Section 30(1)(a)(b) – Criminal Investigations

Section 30 is qualified and class based and, as such, we are required to apply the public interest test.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring disclosure under Section 30(1)(a)(b)

Disclosure of the information would improve the public's knowledge and understanding of the investigatory process and, as all police investigations are publicly funded, would show how public funds are being spent.

Factors favouring non-disclosure under Section 30(1)(a)(b)

Disclosure of the requested information would prejudice how investigations are carried out in the future. Staffordshire Police is charged with enforcing the law, preventing and detecting crime and protecting the communities we serve. Any release of information relating to ongoing investigations could prejudice and undermine those investigations. The prevention and detection of such matters could therefore be hindered and therefore risk interference with evidence, which could have detrimental impact on future investigations. In addition, the right to a fair trial could be undermined.

Balance test

Disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act is a release of information to the world in general and not an individual applicant. Having considered the public interest 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 non-disclosure.

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



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Please remember to quote the reference number in any future communications.

Freedom of Information
Central Disclosure Unit