



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

Our Ref: FOI 17308
Your Ref: FOI 16910
Date: 04 October 2024

Internal Review

Re: Request for internal review of response to application for information under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, original request first notified to Staffordshire Police on 28/05/2024

We refer to the above request which was expressed in the following terms:

'Please provide details of RTCs involving just vehicles and also vehicles and pedestrians on the A527 (Congleton Road) between (and including) the junctions of Grange Road and Meadows Way (the major roundabout) at Biddulph.

Please state if the accident involved a fatality or if injuries were classed as serious or slight and the dates of any accidents.

The Road Traffic Collisions map (ssrp.traffweb.app) is unfortunately not up to date.

Please provide information for the dates 01.01.2022 up until 31.12.2023.'

Further to the above, we also note the following comments made within your request for Internal Review.

'I am seeking an Internal Review of the response given to the above request.

1. The statutory requirement for FOI requests to be answered is 20 days. Why has it taken 79 working days to answer what was a very simple question that was clearly defined? In your response a Road Traffic Collision data base is cited. This should make such a request easy to answer.

2. I am aware of an accident between a car and a pedestrian on this short stretch of the A527 on the same date as the accident disclosed : the 7th August 2023. Why are the details of this accident being withheld? The pedestrian was crossing the A527.

3. In the event that the accident involving a pedestrian is the disclosed information please explain the association of a motorcycle and the lack of reference to a pedestrian.

The A527 is a very busy road. Any considerations or suggestions to improve road safety depend upon the accurately logged reports of accidents. I'm sure that the Road Traffic Department will appreciate that the failure to log details correctly (be it the parties involved, the exact location or the level of injuries sustained) leads to flawed data.'

Our Response

Your appeal based on the timelines of the force's response to your request has been considered.

Please accept our apologies for the delay in responding to your request.

Regarding the Freedom of information request, log reference 16910, the delay in our response was clearly a breach of S10 of the Freedom of Information Act.

However, as outlined within our acknowledgement of your request we stated the following:

'Due to unforeseen staffing issues beyond our control, Staffordshire Police will be unable to observe the statutory 20 working day deadline for all Freedom of Information requests.

We apologise for the reduced level of service during this time.

In order to assist us in maintaining a level of service to all requesters, if at any point you no longer require the requested information please let us know and your request can be closed.

Both the Information Commissioners Office and the National Police Chiefs' Council have been made aware of this position.'

Upon review of your request for information under the Freedom of Information provision referenced above and all corresponding communication, we are of the opinion that the data provided was flawed in that this RTC involving a car and a motorcycle did not occur on the 07/08/2023 but instead occurred on 24/02/2022

Further searches have now been conducted and additional incidents that fit the criteria of your request have been located.

Data has been retrieved from our Command and Control system in line with the parameters of your initial request, based upon the number of injury RTCs reported within the timescale outlined, please find below our revised response based upon our refinements to your initial request.

'Please provide details of RTCs involving just vehicles and also vehicles and pedestrians on the A527 (Congleton Road) between (and including) the junctions of Grange Road and Meadows Way (the major roundabout) at Biddulph. – Disclosed – 6 including the initially reported RTC with date now corrected.

Please state if the accident involved a fatality or if injuries were classed as serious or slight and the dates of any accidents. – Disclosed – Please see Below

Case 1 – 19/01/2022 – Slight Injury – The collision involved a van and a pedestrian

Case 2 – 24/02/2022 – Slight Injury – The collision involved a car and a motorcycle

Case 3 – 13/06/2022 – Slight Injury – The collision involved a car and a pedal cycle

Case 4 – 09/05/2023 – Slight Injury – The collision involved two cars

Case 5 – 04/08/2023 – Slight Injury – The collision involved two cars

Case 6 – 07/08/2023 – Slight Injury – The collision involved a car and a pedestrian

Please be advised that all FOI requests and response letters are published on the Staffordshire Police website although personal details are not included.



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If you are not content with the outcome of the review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner to investigate. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

ICO Website for complaints link: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/foi-and-eir-complaints/foi-and-eir-complaints/>

Central Disclosure Unit Management Team
Central Disclosure Unit
Staffordshire Police