



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

2 September 2024

FOI Ref 17052

Request - You asked us the following:

This request concerns the number of arrests and charges recorded for drink and drug driving by your force.

1. Please state the number of arrests made by your force on suspicion of
 - a. Drink driving
 - b. Drug driving

In each of the following calendar years

- i) 2018
- ii) 2019
- iii) 2020
- iv) 2021
- v) 2022
- vi) 2023
- vii) 2024

2. Of the arrests in each year, please state the number which led to a charge. Please provide a breakdown, if held and retrievable within the FOIA cost limit, what offence was charged.

3. Please provide a copy of the redacted free text summary of the details of the arrest held in the force's crime reporting information system for drink and drug driving cases recorded by your force between July 1st and July 15th 2024.

We received your request on 16/07/2024 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.

1. Please state the number of arrests made by your force on suspicion of
 - a. Drink driving
 - b. Drug drivingIn each of the following calendar years
 - i) 2018
 - ii) 2019
 - iii) 2020

- iv) 2021
- v) 2022
- vi) 2023
- vii) 2024 – **Withheld.**

2. Of the arrests in each year, please state the number which led to a charge. Please provide a breakdown, if held and retrievable within the FOIA cost limit, what offence was charged. – **Withheld.**
3. Please provide a copy of the redacted free text summary of the details of the arrest held in the force's crime reporting information system for drink and drug driving cases recorded by your force between July 1st and July 15th 2024. – **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. The issue is with question 3, as for the time period requested, there have been in excess of 640 arrests for drink or drug driving. In order to provide redacted summaries of the arrest records, each record would require manual review to collate the information required in order to summarise without including personal data.

From dip sampling, it has been estimated that it would take approximately 4 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to over 42 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.

In addition, with regards to questions 1 and 2, on 20th May 2020 Staffordshire Police implemented a new case management system. This system brought data from a number of legacy systems into one to provide a single nominal record, including the custody system. The old custody system has now been decommissioned and as a result there is no search facility to be able to retrieve the requested data. It would entail searching thousands of records to establish if it fitted the criteria of the request. To achieve this task would exceed the 18-hour time and cost threshold stipulated by the Freedom of Information Act.

The following exemptions have been applied:

4. 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'.

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 3 was withdrawn, Staffordshire Police would be able to provide the data requested for questions 1 and 2, however the data would be provided from May 2020 – July 2024.



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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