

6 September 2024

FOI Ref 17056

Request - You asked us the following:

Please could you help me with the below. So far I have been unsuccessful in obtaining the research requested.

I am a PCDA student currently in my third year and I am starting my dissertation. I have decided to do my research on the support available to Police Officers in relation to their mental health. I am contacting you to establish if this is something the force has and if so, can this be shared with me for this purpose.

Currently I was thinking of requesting documentation from Staffordshire Police in relation to the statistics and policies surrounding the following objectives:

- Identify if there is sufficient support and policies available for police officers in relation to their mental health
- Do police officers utilise mental health support when required?
- What are the impacts on police officers' mental health caused by their line of work?

I am hoping for documents such as the force's mental health policy, and what support is available; as well as statistics showing how often do officers receive support for mental health, and the absences figures from October 2020 to October 2023 due to mental health. I am not looking for individual opinions or circumstances, as I believe an overview of the entire force will provide me with research to use and will keep all parties anonymous.

I have attached my approved ethics form to this email for your reference should you need it.

We received your request on 18/07/2024 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Please find below our response.

Staffordshire Police holds the following requested information.

- I am hoping for documents such as the force's mental health policy, and what support is available; - **Partial information held.**
- As well as statistics showing how often do officers receive support for mental health, - **Information held.**
- and the absences figures from October 2020 to October 2023 due to mental health. - **Partial information held.**

Staffordshire Police discloses the following information.

- I am hoping for documents such as the forces mental health policy, and what support is available;
- **Disclosed, Staffordshire Police does not have a specific mental health policy, however, individuals can either self refer into Occupational Health or be referred in by their line manager through a management referral. There is also a range of signposting options available on our intranet and we also currently have an app available for officers and staff to use which includes support for both mental and physical health.**
- As well as statistics showing how often do officers receive support for mental health, - **Disclosed, in 2023, Occupational Health held 323 appointments with officers in 2023.**
- and the absences figures from October 2020 to October 2023 due to mental health. – **Disclosed, please see accompanying file titled 'FOI 17056 Mental Health Policy Data.PDF'.**

Please note that absence data is held by financial year, therefore we have provided absence data from 01/04/2021 to 31/03/2023.

Please note that this data has been provided to the best of our ability, subject to the limitation of current recording protocols and systems/software.

Every effort is made to ensure that the data presented is accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that this has been extracted from multiple sources, developed for specific policing purposes, for which data extraction methods have not been specifically designed to directly correlate with the terminology of this request. Therefore, the data presented is subject to the inaccuracies and idiosyncrasies inherent in any large-scale recording system.

As a consequence, care should be taken in the interpretation and presentation of this data, so as to not misrepresent the whole or any part of the data disclosed.

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



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

PO Box 3167
Stafford
ST16 9JZ

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

Freedom of Information
Central Disclosure Unit