

17 April 2025

FOI Ref 17916

Request - You asked us the following:

Data Breaches:

- The number of data breaches recorded by your force in the past 10 years.
- The agencies or external bodies involved, if any.
- The type of data compromised.
- The departments or units within your force affected.
- The impact of these data breaches.
- Whether any of these breaches were reported in the media (if so, please specify).
- Whether the breaches were made public by the force.

Information Sharing Agreements:

- What information sharing agreements your force currently has in place.
- The number of information sharing agreements your force currently has in place.
- The organisations or agencies these agreements are with.
- A distinction between statutory information sharing agreements and localised agreements.

Operational Databases:

- The number of separate information databases your force operates in relation to operational matters (excluding internal systems such as HR or logistical databases, clothing stores, etc.).
- A brief description of the purpose of these operational databases. To be clear, we do not require specific titles of the databases; generic descriptions will suffice - for example: "intelligence (general)", "intelligence casework", "incident (general)", "knife crime", "gangs", etc.
- We fully acknowledge the need to maintain operational sensitivity and are not requesting any information that would compromise security or investigative work.

ADR Requirements:

- The systems your force uses to ensure compliance with the Authorised Professional Practice on Data Retention (ADR) requirements.
- Confirmation on whether these systems fully address all ADR requirements, or whether certain requirements necessitate bespoke responses or solutions.

We received your request on 03/03/2025 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 parts of this particular request.



Staffordshire Police withholds the following information.

- Data Breaches:
 - The number of data breaches recorded by your force in the past 10 years.
 - The agencies or external bodies involved, if any.
 - The type of data compromised.
 - The departments or units within your force affected.
 - The impact of these data breaches.
 - Whether any of these breaches were reported in the media (if so, please specify).
 - Whether the breaches were made public by the force.
 - **Withheld, please see the below exemption.**
- Information Sharing Agreements:
 - What information sharing agreements your force currently has in place.
 - The number of information sharing agreements your force currently has in place.
 - The organisations or agencies these agreements are with.
 - A distinction between statutory information sharing agreements and localised agreements.
 - **Withheld, please see the below exemption.**
- Operational Databases:
 - The number of separate information databases your force operates in relation to operational matters (excluding internal systems such as HR or logistical databases, clothing stores, etc.).
 - A brief description of the purpose of these operational databases. To be clear, we do not require specific titles of the databases; generic descriptions will suffice - for example: "intelligence (general)", "intelligence casework", "incident (general)", "knife crime", "gangs", etc.
 - We fully acknowledge the need to maintain operational sensitivity and are not requesting any information that would compromise security or investigative work.
 - **No information held.**
- ADR Requirements:
 - The systems your force uses to ensure compliance with the Authorised Professional Practice on Data Retention (ADR) requirements.
 - Confirmation on whether these systems fully address all ADR requirements, or whether certain requirements necessitate bespoke responses or solutions.
 - **No information held.**

The following exemption has 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 readily retrieve information from our systems to answer parts of this request. With regards to data breaches, in order to ascertain the agencies or external bodies involved in the breach and also the type of data that was compromised in the time period requested, the record for each breach would require a manual review. This is due to the information being recorded as a free text method therefore there is no way to easily categorise the data. Additionally, with regards to information sharing agreements, each one would have to be manually checked to establish a distinction between

statutory and localised agreements. To extract this data would require a very labour-intensive manual trawl through each record/agreement and to achieve this task would therefore exceed the 18-hour time and cost threshold of the FOI Act by some considerable margin.

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.

To assist in refining your request, data can be provided for data breaches regarding the total number, the departments affected and the impact of them. Data can also be provided for information sharing agreements regarding the total number and the organisations or agencies these agreements are with. Please be advised that further exemptions may apply.

With regard to data retention, we follow the retention schedule which can be found here:
[retention-schedule.pdf](#)

Please be advised that all Freedom of Information request responses are published on the Staffordshire Police website although personal details are not included.

Freedom of Information Request Appeals Procedure

1. Who Can Ask for a Review

Any person who has requested information from Staffordshire Police, which has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act, is entitled to complain and request an internal review, if they are dissatisfied with the response they received.

2. How to Request a Review

Requests for review of a Freedom of Information request must be made in writing within two months of the date of receipt of this email, and should be addressed to:

foi@staffordshire.police.uk

Or by Post to:

Central Disclosure Unit
Staffordshire Police HQ
PO Box 3167
Stafford
ST16 9JZ

The reference number, date of the request and details of why the review is being requested must be included. Requests for review should be brought to the attention of the Central Disclosure Unit within two months of the Force's response to the original FOI request.



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3. Review Procedure

Receipt of a request for review will be acknowledged in writing. The review will be conducted by another Decision Maker who is independent from the original Decision Maker. The Central Disclosure Unit will set a target date for a response. The response will be made as soon as is practicable with the intention to complete the review within 20 working days. In more complex cases the review may take up to 40 working days.

The independent Decision Maker will conduct a review of the handling of the request for information and of decisions taken, including decisions taken about where the public interest lies in respect of exempt information where applicable. The review enables a re-evaluation of the case, taking into account the matters raised by the complaint.

4. Conclusion of the Appeal

On completion of the review the Independent Decision maker will reply to the complainant with the result of the review. If the complainant is still dissatisfied following the review they should contact the Information Commissioner to make an appeal. The Information Commissioner can be contacted via the following details:

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/>

Freedom of Information
Central Disclosure Unit