

10 April 2025

FOI Ref 21185

Request - You asked us the following:

please provide

Since the last NPCC/ABI MoU (mid 2022*) please provide the following information you possess about:

1. the disclosure of crime reports to other than ABI members;
3. your policy/ arrangements for disclosure of crime reports to other than ABI members 4. any planned changes/attention to disclosure

We received your request on 04/04/2025 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 this particular request.

The following exemptions have been applied:

- Section 14(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the request is vexatious.
- Section 14(2) is where a public authority has previously complied with a request for information which was made by any person, it is not obliged to comply with a subsequent identical or substantially similar request from that same applicant unless a reasonable interval has elapsed between compliance with the previous request and the making of the current request.

We are not providing the information you have requested as we have determined that your request is vexatious under Section 14(1) and Section 14(2) Vexatious Requests.

The Information Commissioner's guidance on the subject makes it clear that Section 14(1) and Section 14(2) may be applied where a request, or its impact on a public authority, cannot be justified.

The key question to consider is whether the request is likely to cause a disproportionate or unjustified level of disruption, irritation or distress based on the impact of the authority, weighed against any evidence about the purpose and value of the request. We are also entitled to consider the context and history of the request where it is relevant.

Staffordshire Police is treating this request as vexatious because to provide a response to questions already submitted on a previous FOI request that have been responded to, creating duplicate requests on the same topic, will cause an unjustified and disproportionate burden on the force. This is because there have been 7 Freedom of Information requests and Internal Review requests relating to the topic of



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disclosure of crime reports to other than ABI members. In addition, there has been a bombardment of correspondence on the same or similar topics that other departments within Staffordshire Police are receiving via email.

For the above reasons, we have therefore concluded that your request is vexatious within the terms of Section 14(1) and Section 14(2) of the Act and we will not be servicing the request. Moreover, please be advised that any further similar requests will also be treated as vexatious and will not receive a response.

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

Next steps

As defined above, multiple internal reviews upon this topic have already been conducted by the Central Disclosure Unit Management Team.

Therefore, if you are not content, 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-eircomplaints/>

This will be our final correspondence upon this subject.

Freedom of Information Team/Central Disclosure Unit Management Team
Central Disclosure Unit