

8 April 2025

FOI Ref 21200

Request - You asked us the following:

This is a request made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (also known as Clare's Law).

Please provide the following data from 2014 up until the most current date available, broken down by calendar year.

If data as early as 2014 is not available, please provide it from the first available date onwards.

In the event that you decide answering me in full would exceed the cost limit, please answer what you can, prioritising my requests in the order I have asked them. Please provide annual totals of:

1. All applications under the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme
2. "Right to know" applications under the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme
3. The number of disclosures made after a "right to know" application
4. "Right to ask" applications under the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme
5. The number of disclosures made after a right to ask application
6. The number of disclosures made within 28 days of a "Right to ask" application
7. The number of disclosures made after 28 days of a "Right to ask" application
8. The longest time it took for a "right to ask" disclosure to be provided

If possible, please could I have the information requested in CSV or other machine-readable format.

Under your section 16 duty to provide advice and assistance please call me if there is any way in which I should amend my request to make it answerable.

We received your request on 07/04/2025 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Staffordshire Police's response to your enquiry is as follows:

Staffordshire Police holds the requested information.

- 1. All applications under the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme – **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 21200 Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme Data'.**
- 2. "Right to know" applications under the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme - **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 21200 Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme Data'.**
- 3. The number of disclosures made after a "right to know" application - **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 21200 Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme Data'.**

- 4. "Right to ask" applications under the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme - **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 21200 Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme Data'.**
- 5. The number of disclosures made after a right to ask application - **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 21200 Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme Data'.**
- 6. The number of disclosures made within 28 days of a "Right to ask" application – **No information held.**
- 7. The number of disclosures made after 28 days of a "Right to ask" application – **No information held.**
- 8. The longest time it took for a "right to ask" disclosure to be provided – **No information held.**

Please note that the FOI Act 2000 only extends to requests for recorded information. It does not require public authorities to create information to answer questions generally; only if the information is already held in recorded form. The Act does not extend to requests for information about policies or their implementation, or the merits or demerits of any proposal or action - unless, of course, the answer to any such request is already held in recorded form.

The following exemption has been applied:

In accordance with Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, this letter represents a refusal notice for parts of this particular request.

- Section 21(1) - Information reasonably accessible by other means.

Section 21 is an absolute, class-based exemption and as such there is no requirement to quantify the harm that may arise from the disclosure, nor is there a requirement to perform a Public Interest Test.

Advice and assistance

In order to comply with our obligations under Section 16 of the Act, the obligation to provide advice and assistance, please find below links to some of the information requested.

- Q1 - [Published items - 17634 | Staffordshire Police](#)

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

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.

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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.

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



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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