

29 April 2025

FOI Ref 21269

Request - You asked us the following:

I am writing to request the following information. Please can the information be broken down for each year between January 2020 - April 2025:

1) How many cases have been recorded by your force between January 2020 and April 2025 for the following offences:

disclosing, threatening to disclose, private sexual photographs and films with or without intent to cause distress

Sharing or threatening to share intimate photograph or film

Voyeurism

2) Can you provide any further information about these cases and include the outcome of each case in 1)?

3) The number of cases involving threats to share intimate photographs or films in which alleged victims were unwilling or unable to contribute to police efforts to prosecute the alleged offender, between January 2020 and April 2025.

Can you include the outcome and/or reason why the alleged victim did not continue with police efforts to prosecute the alleged offender.

4) The number of convictions and outcomes made each year between 2020 - 2025 for the following offences:

disclosing, threatening to disclose, private sexual photographs and films with or without intent to cause distress

Sharing or threatening to share intimate photograph or film

Voyeurism

5) The number of convictions involving threats to share intimate photographs or films by repeat offenders.

Can you include the outcome for each conviction

6) The number of reports of threats to share photographs or films which show, or appear to show, someone in an intimate state - This would be a breach of Section 188(4) of the Online Safety Act 2023

Can you include the outcome of each report

We received your request on 25/04/2025 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 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. For the time period requested, there have been in excess of 1,100 occurrences, in order to ascertain the reason why a victim did not choose to continue to prosecute an offender, the record for each offence would require a manual review. Additionally, to establish the offences which show, or appear to show, someone in an intimate state would again need to be individually checked to see whether this was relevant. To extract this data would therefore require a very labour-intensive manual trawl through each record.

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 73 hours. 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.

In order to refine your request data can be provided for question 1 along with the outcomes. Data can also be provided for question 3 where the outcome is listed as '14: Victim declines/unable to support action to identify offender' and '16: Victim declines/withdraws support – named suspect identified'.

Staffordshire Police do not hold conviction data. We would advise that you approach the Government HM Courts & Tribunals service website.

Please find below links to previously disclosed HMCTS data and details upon how to submit a further Freedom of Information request to the Government HM Courts and Tribunals Service for this information. Make an FOI request - [how to make a request](#).

Check [our previous releases](#) to see if we've already answered your question - [our previous releases](#)

Make a new request by using the details below.



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FOI requests
Disclosure Team
Postal Point 10.38, Floor 10
102 Petty France
London
SW1H 9AJ
United Kingdom

Email

data.access@justice.gov.uk

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.

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.



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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