

6 August 2025

FOI Ref 21625

Request - You asked us the following:

This is a request for information according to the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

It relates to reviewing the vetting status of serving police officers.

(1)
Since 1 April 2023, has your force introduced a vetting review policy, similar to Operation Assure that was instigated by the Metropolitan Police? Please provide a Yes/No answer.

Operation Assure is the Met's process, based on national guidance, to consider dismissing officers who can no longer pass vetting.

If the answer is Yes, please proceed to the following questions:

(2)
In the time period since you instigated the policy and up to the present day, how many serving police officers have had their vetting status reviewed?

(3)
In the time period since you instigated the policy and up to the present day, how many serving police officers had their vetting status removed?

(4)
In the time period since you instigated the policy and up to the present day, how many serving police officers have appealed against the vetting review decision?

(5)
In the time period since you instigated the policy and up to the present day, how many serving police officers have won their appeal?

(6)
Of those who won the appeal, how many have returned to full duty?

(7)
How many who had their vetting status removed are currently awaiting a hearing for gross incompetence or misconduct or gross misconduct due to their loss of RV vetting clearance?

(8)
How many who had their vetting status removed have had a hearing for gross incompetence, misconduct or gross misconduct due to their loss of RV vetting clearance?

(9)

How many police officers have been dismissed from your force for gross incompetence or misconduct or gross misconduct as a result of the vetting review process?

We received your request on 23/07/2025 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

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

Staffordshire Police holds/does not hold the requested information.

- (1) Since 1 April 2023, has your force introduced a vetting review policy, similar to Operation Assure that was instigated by the Metropolitan Police? Please provide a Yes/No answer - **Disclosed, no.**
- (2) In the time period since you instigated the policy and up to the present day, how many serving police officers have had their vetting status reviewed? – **Not applicable.**
- (3) In the time period since you instigated the policy and up to the present day, how many serving police officers had their vetting status removed? – **Not applicable.**
- (4) In the time period since you instigated the policy and up to the present day, how many serving police officers have appealed against the vetting review decision? – **Not applicable.**
- (5) In the time period since you instigated the policy and up to the present day, how many serving police officers have won their appeal? – **Not applicable.**
- (6) Of those who won the appeal, how many have returned to full duty? – **Not applicable.**
- (7) How many who had their vetting status removed are currently awaiting a hearing for gross incompetence or misconduct or gross misconduct due to their loss of RV vetting clearance? – **Not applicable.**
- (8) How many who had their vetting status removed have had a hearing for gross incompetence, misconduct or gross misconduct due to their loss of RV vetting clearance? – **Not applicable.**
- (9) How many police officers have been dismissed from your force for gross incompetence or misconduct or gross misconduct as a result of the vetting review process? – **Not applicable.**

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.

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



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

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