

1 August 2025

FOI Ref 21649

Request - You asked us the following:

I am writing to request any available information or records relating to emergency responses (including incidents such as stabbings, cordons, or significant police and ambulance activity) in Burton-on-Trent on 26 June 2025, specifically near the B&M store and surrounding streets.

On that date, I was in the town centre and had to park near the B&M store because the presence of multiple police and ambulance vehicles prevented me from accessing other usual parking areas. I now need to provide evidence of this emergency activity to support a matter I am resolving regarding my parking on that day.

Could you please confirm:

- Whether there were any incidents (e.g., stabbings or serious events) in that area on 26 June 2025;
- The time and location of any such emergency responses;
- Any official confirmation (e.g., incident logs, dispatch reports, or a public statement) that can be shared

We received your request on 29/07/2025 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

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

Staffordshire Police holds the requested information.

- I am writing to request any available information or records relating to emergency responses (including incidents such as stabbings, cordons, or significant police and ambulance activity) in Burton-on-Trent on 26 June 2025, specifically near the B&M store and surrounding streets.
- On that date, I was in the town centre and had to park near the B&M store because the presence of multiple police and ambulance vehicles prevented me from accessing other usual parking areas. I now need to provide evidence of this emergency activity to support a matter I am resolving regarding my parking on that day.
- Could you please confirm:
 - Whether there were any incidents (e.g., stabbings or serious events) in that area on 26 June 2025; - **Disclosed, yes.**
 - The time and location of any such emergency responses; - **Disclosed, 13:05pm at Mecca Bingo in Burton on Trent.**
 - Any official confirmation (e.g., incident logs, dispatch reports, or a public statement) that can be shared – **Withheld, please see the below exemption.**

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

The following exemptions have been applied:

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

- **Section 38(1)(a)(b) Health and Safety**

Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to (a) endanger the physical or mental health of any individual, or (b) endanger the safety of any individual. This exemption is qualified and prejudice-based and, as such, we are required to evidence the harm in disclosure and apply the public interest test.

- **Section 40(2) Personal Information**

Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption which means that there is no need to quantify the harm that may arise from the disclosure; neither is it subject to a public interest test.

To release personal or third-party information held by Staffordshire Police, would breach the data protection principles; namely –

- Data is lawfully and fairly processed.
- Processed in line with an individual's rights.
- Data is secure.

Personal and third-party information cannot be released under the Freedom of Information Act.

Disclosure under Freedom of Information is a release of information to the world in general and not an individual applicant.

Harm

Disclosure of information relating to a serious incident involving the public would place both sensitive and potentially distressing information into the public domain. The impact upon the mental health and wellbeing of close family and friends cannot be understated or ignored. The disclosure of such sensitive and highly emotive information may resurface the anguish and pain experienced by any individuals with a close link to the incident and therefore have unknown ramifications to the mental health and wellbeing of close friends and loved ones.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring disclosure under Section 38(1)(a)(b)

In addition to the basic premise of being open and transparent, disclosure of information relating to a serious incident would allow for greater public awareness of such incidents and police activity.

Factors favouring non-disclosure under Section 38(1)(a)(b)

When disclosing information into the public domain SP must be mindful of the potential impact this may have. Information relating to the incident could invite speculation. The impact such speculation may have upon close friends and family cannot be ignored. Placing such information into an open public forum would therefore have unforeseen ramifications upon the mental health and wellbeing of those close to individuals involved.

Balance test

When considering whether disclosure is appropriate, we must weigh the strongest reason for disclosure against the strongest reasons for non-disclosure. In this case, whilst the factors favouring disclosure are important in that it would adhere to the basic principle of being open and transparent, we believe when weighed against the risk of disclosure that could affect the wellbeing of those involved, then non-disclosure takes precedence.

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



STAFFORDSHIRE
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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