

5 August 2025

FOI Ref 21650

Request - You asked us the following:

I hope you are well. I am writing under the FOI Act to request information regarding investigations into the sale of illicit weight loss jabs in your area. Please could you tell me:

1. Between July 2020 and July 2025 how many investigations have been launched into the alleged sale of illicit weight loss jabs? Please break this down by year.
2. Of these, how many have resulted in a) arrests and b) charges? Please break down by year and outcome.
3. Of these, if you are able to, please detail whether jabs were being sold online or in stores.

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:

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(2) In order to identify whether or not information is or isn't held would exceed the cost threshold in accordance with Section 12(2) of the Freedom of Information Act as in order to satisfy Section 1(1)(a) of the Act would exceed the cost threshold.

The above information has been refused for the following reasons:

There is no method by which we can readily identify or locate whether information is held within Staffordshire Police systems to answer this request. The information you require is not stored in a way which allows for identification or retrieval, this type of offence is non-recordable under the Home Office counting rules and therefore not recorded within our crime/occurrence recording database. To determine whether an investigation was due to the sale of illicit weight loss jabs, it would require a manual search of all logs recorded in the timeframe. To achieve this task would therefore exceed the 18-hour time and cost threshold of the Freedom of Information 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.

Unfortunately, we cannot suggest a way in which your request could be simplified or pared down in order to bring it within the confines of the time and cost threshold.

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



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

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



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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