

7 August 2025

FOI Ref 21656

Request - You asked us the following:

Given the following statement made by the U.N. representative.

Volker Türk, the UN human rights commissioner, said ministers' decision to designate the group a terrorist organisation was "disproportionate and unnecessary" and called on them to rescind it.

In a statement on Friday, he said the ban amounted to an "impermissible restriction" of people's rights to freedom of expression and assembly that was "at odds with the UK's obligations under international human rights law".

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<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2025/jul/25/uk-ban-palestine-action-odds-international-law-un-rights-volker-turk>

In that case.

1) On what legal grounds was the severely disabled young man in a wheel chair arrested on Saturday 26th July 2025 outside the Elbit factory Shenstone Staffordshire? Photographs have gone around the world as an example of policing at odds with International Law. This is causing both embarrassment and consternation in Staffordshire. It may also have other legal consequences where the taxpayer has to pay a bill for breaches of International Law committed in the Staffordshire County Council area.

2) Which police officer gave the order for that arrest?

3) What political order was given for that arrest by who?

4) Who was the lead police officer on duty that day on the ground?

5) Who was silver command?

6) Who was gold command?

7) What guidelines were used?

8) Given the young man is severely disabled what guidelines were used for his specific arrest and detention?

9) It is clear from video and photographic evidence that the young man was not given opportunity to wheel himself. Why was it necessary to lift his wheel chair at all? Why couldn't the chair simply be pushed? How many police were used to lift his wheelchair?. Since an arrestee should be treated the same as a fully abled bodied person The Equality Act 2010 applies - reasonable adjustments - What ramp did you have to enable the wheel chair user to wheel himself into the police van? What was its specifications? And - How could he have been given an option if no ramp exists?

10) What station was the arrestee taken to? How many ramps does that police station have? where?

11) On what charge?

12) Given the arrestees disability has he been given access to independent medical care? Please state if they are registered - who with?



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- 13) Has he been given access to an independent qualified care assistant? Please state if they are registered - who with?
- 14) How many times has this arrestee seen a medical professional?
- 15) How many times has he seen a care assistant during the day and night time?
- 16) Do you have a detailed observation sheet available for inspection by his own legal/medical team? From medical practitioners? From the care assistants? from the police?
- 17) How long has he been kept away from his own legal help? On what grounds, please state which section, sub section and paragraph please?
- 18) Has he been taken to hospital for any treatment?
- 19) Has he received any of his normal medical, physiotherapy and other medical or social assistance whilst detained?
- 20) Which police station/s has he further been taken to or transferred to since his arrest? Why?

Thank you for your kind consideration of the above questions.

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 can neither confirm nor deny whether information relevant to this request is held, as the duty in Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 does not apply by virtue of the following exemptions:

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

- Section 30(3) – Criminal Investigations

Section 30 is qualified and class-based and, as such, we are required to apply the public interest test.

- Section 31 (3) - Law Enforcement

Section 31 is a qualified and prejudice-based exemption and, as such, we are required to evidence the harm in disclosure and apply the public interest test.

- Section 40(5) Personal Information

Section 40(5) 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.

Harm

Any release under FOIA is a disclosure to the world, not just to the individual making the request. To confirm, or not, whether any information is held pertinent to this request would reveal whether or not there has been any information received on the dates specified, in respect of potential terrorist related activity.

Police forces work in conjunction with other agencies and information is shared in line with information sharing protocols. Modern day policing is intelligence led and this is particularly pertinent with regard to

law enforcement. The public expect police forces to use all powers and tactics available to them to prevent and detect crime or disorder and maintain public safety.

If Staffordshire Police were to confirm or deny whether any information was held in respect of this request, this would undermine the force's policing capabilities, which consequently would be detrimental to our ability to deal with the on-going terrorist threat we face.

The prevention and detection of crime is the foundation upon which policing is built and the threat from terrorism cannot be ignored. It is generally recognised that the international security landscape is increasingly complex and unpredictable. The current UK threat level from international terrorism, based on intelligence, is assessed as of today's date, as "Substantial", which means that a terrorist attack is likely, see below link:

<https://www.mi5.gov.uk/threat-levels>

In order to counter criminal and terrorist behaviour, it is vital that the police have the ability to work together to ensure the successful arrest and prosecution of offenders who encourage, support, commit or plan to commit acts of terrorism.

The impact of providing information under FOI would disclose crucial information on the police intelligence picture in respect of those who may be supportive of a proscribed organisation and to what extent they may be engaged in terrorist activity. This would provide criminals, including terrorists or those intent on committing criminal or terrorist acts, with valuable information as to where the police are targeting their investigations. Confirmation or denial would undermine the effective delivery of operational law enforcement by highlighting which areas have, or have not, received police attention from these type of reports.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring confirming or denying information is held – Section 30(3)

There is a public interest in the transparency of policing and to provide assurance that Staffordshire Police is appropriately and effectively dealing with crime. Confirming or denying that any information exists relevant to this request would lead to a better informed public demonstrating that police resources are being utilised correctly to focus on criminal/terrorist activity and to protect the public.

This would provide an insight into the police service and enable the public to have better understanding of effectiveness of the police, particularly in relation to the spending of public funds and the decisions taken by officers. As transparency is intrinsically linked to public confidence, confirming or denying whether any information is held, would be likely to improve public confidence in the force.

Factors favouring not confirming or denying information is held – Section 30(3)

Whilst there is a public interest in the transparency of policing operations and providing assurance that Staffordshire Police is appropriately and effectively dealing with crime, there is a strong public interest in safeguarding the integrity of police investigations and operations, particularly where they relate to terrorist activity, and in maintaining confidence in the Police Service. As this is a specific area of investigation which could also relate to inviting support for a proscribed terrorist group(s), confirmation or denial would identify

police focus and attention which could be used by criminals, including terrorists to disrupt investigations and evade detection. This risks the integrity of investigations and places the public at severe risk.

Factors favouring confirming or denying information is held – Section 31(3)

National counter terrorism data is published by the Home Office on a quarterly and annual basis, which includes those who have been charged and convicted for membership of a proscribed organisation under Sections 11-13 of TACT 2000. In addition, those who have been proceeded against and convicted by the CPS in relation to the above offences (see link below), and this in itself favours confirming information is held. <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/counter-terrorism-statistics>

Therefore, to confirm information is held by Staffordshire Police would demonstrate openness and transparency. When a request for information is made to the force it is correct that the police make appropriate information available to the general public. The provision of information, through confirming or denying whether information relevant to this request is held would accordingly, reinforce our commitment to be an open and transparent organisation.

Factors favouring not confirming or denying information is held – Section 31(3)

Staffordshire Police has a duty of care to the community at large and public safety is of paramount importance. If an FOI disclosure revealed information to the world (by citing an exemption or stating no information held) that would undermine the security of the national infrastructure. Offenders, including terrorist organisations, could use this to their advantage which would compromise public safety and more worryingly encourage offenders to carry out further crimes.

Therefore, confirming or denying information is held, would allow terrorists to gain an operational advantage over Staffordshire Police, consequently requiring an increase in resources, which cannot be in the public interest.

Balance test

The points above highlight the merits of confirming, or denying, whether any further information pertinent to this request exists. Whilst it is recognised that there is a public interest in the transparency of policing operations and providing assurance that the police service is appropriately and effectively engaging with the threat posed by various groups or individuals, there is a very strong public interest in safeguarding the integrity of police investigations and operations in this highly sensitive area.

The public entrust the Police Service to make appropriate decisions with regard to their safety and protection and the only way of reducing risk is to be cautious with any information that is released. Confirming or denying whether any information is held would reveal data around force level activity relating terrorism. This would result in an increase of harm to either current or future investigations, or the subject of the investigation. Any disclosure of information, if held, which has the potential to jeopardise an investigation, is therefore likely to prejudice law enforcement and would therefore be of assistance to those intent on causing harm.

Therefore, after weighing up the competing public interests, we have found that confirmation or denial of whether information is held is not made out.

However, no inference can be taken from this refusal that further information does or does not exist.

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:



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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/>

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