

15 August 2025

FOI Ref 21663

Request - You asked us the following:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am seeking information from your organisation about call outs to further education institutions.

Please provide the below information for the following period every financial year from 31 March 2015 to 31 March 2025.

1. The number of police call outs/incidents attended at FE college premises by officers in your force.
For each year, please give:
 - a. A quarterly breakdown of the number of call outs For each incident, please outline:
 - i. Crime type and category
 - ii. Age and gender of individual or individuals involved
 - iii. Name of institution where incident was recorded
 - iv. Whether an arrest was made
 - v. Outcomes. E.g. charges filed and state the charges, caution, no further action

Please note that further education institutions refer to includes general FE colleges, sixth form colleges, independent training providers, specialist post-16 institutions and adult education providers.

I would be grateful if you could provide this information ideally as Excel spreadsheets or CSV files.

I expect to receive the response within 20 working days.

Regarding point II and III, I anticipate potential concerns about disclosure.

Age ranges and gender are anonymised demographic data that do not constitute personal information capable of identifying individuals, even if there are small numbers. Such breakdowns are routinely published in crime statistics by the ONS and the Home Office.

The information is essential for understanding patterns of incidents affecting different demographic groups and ensuring appropriate safeguarding measures. It also serves the public interest to identify potential vulnerabilities amongst college students.

For point III, colleges are public/publicly funded bodies with reduced expectations of privacy. The names constitute non-personal data that does not breach data protection legislation. There is precedent for disclosure of their names in similar contexts, such as regulatory reports like Ofsted.

Additionally, the public interest in transparency regarding police resource allocation and campus safety significantly outweighs any claimed reputational concerns.

Any claimed exemption under s.40 (personal information) or s.43 (commercial interests) would be disproportionate given the clear public interest in disclosure.

If the decision is made to withhold some of this information using exemptions in the Act, I would be grateful if you could please inform me of that fact, cite the exemptions used and explain why.

Please do not reject the entire request but answer in order until permitted resources have been expended.

If so, please prioritise questions 1 (disregarding the quarterly breakdown) and I, III, V. If the timeframe is too long, please provide the last five years of data instead.

If any clarification is needed regarding this request, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

We received your request on 30/07/2025 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(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:

This is because on 20th May 2020 Staffordshire Police implemented a new case management system. This system brought data from a number of legacy systems into one to provide a single nominal record, including the custody system. The old custody system has now been decommissioned and as a result there is no search facility to be able to retrieve the requested data. Within this system, where the location type has been recorded as 'educational' a location subtype is provide from which the data can be broken down further – this field only contains the following identifiers: school, training centre, university, other education, day-care/nursey or college – there is no specific category for Further Educational colleges. This would mean that all results would need to be researched to determine whether the premises in question had the provision for further education. This may not be immediately apparent from the name i.e some would just contain a school name – which may or may not have further educational provison (some may merely be primary or infant schools). Therefore, in order to provide the information requested, manual research of each log would be required.

During the timescale indicated, there have been in excess of 6,800 occurrences, each of which has been recorded at an educational facility and manual research of each would be required. From dip sampling it is estimated that research would take approximately 5 minutes per record, this would equate to upwards of 560 hours to determine whether each was in relation to an institution with 'Further Educational' capacity. To achieve this task would therefore exceed the 18-hour time and cost threshold stipulated by the FOI Act.

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 assist in refining your request, data could be provided from 20th May 2020 broken down by year where the location is recorded as school, training centre, university, other education, day-care/nursey or college and this data could be broken down by outcome.

Alternatively, if you were to remove the requirement to provide arrest data, the remaining data could be provided for the full timescale, limited to your preference of the following location subcategories: school, training centre, university, other education, day-care/nursey or college.

However, please note further exemptions may apply.

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
Wilmslow



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

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