

21 August 2025

FOI Ref 21674

Request - You asked us the following:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am requesting any recorded information relating to a violent incident or public disorder that is alleged to have occurred in or near the town of Cannock between January 1st, 2022 and December 31st, 2024

I am particularly interested in any incidents that meet any of the following criteria:

Involved the use of a bladed weapon (including but not limited to knives, machetes, or similar items),

Included a group conflict or violent altercation involving multiple individuals,

Was classified as violent disorder, assault with injury, affray, or possession of a weapon in public.

If records exist, please provide:

1. The date, location, and general description of the incident,
2. The type(s) of weapon involved (if any),
3. The number of individuals involved,
4. Outcomes, including arrests or charges filed, where possible.

We received your request on 04/08/2025 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.

- Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am requesting any recorded information relating to a violent incident or public disorder that is alleged to have occurred in or near the town of Cannock between January 1st, 2022 and December 31st, 2024
- I am particularly interested in any incidents that meet any of the following criteria:
- Involved the use of a bladed weapon (including but not limited to knives, machetes, or similar items),
- Included a group conflict or violent altercation involving multiple individuals,
- Was classified as violent disorder, assault with injury, affray, or possession of a weapon in public.

- If records exist, please provide:
 - 1. The date, location, and general description of the incident,
 - 2. The type(s) of weapon involved (if any),
 - 3. The number of individuals involved,
 - 4. Outcomes, including arrests or charges filed, where possible.
- **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 21674 Violent or Public Disorder Incidents in Cannock Data'.**

Please be advised that a search has been carried out on our crime management database for all violent and public order offences in Cannock in the time period requested. These have been filtered to occurrences that have multiple suspects/offenders and where a 'bladed weapon' has been used. The data has been provided in uncorrelated tables to avoid identification of individuals.

Please note that there are 4 offences that are still being investigated so with regard to these cases we are citing Section 30(1)(a)(b) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Investigations conducted by Public Authorities. These cases have been included in the overall total for the number of offences but any further breakdown has not been provided. Please see the below exemption.

Please note that this data has been provided to the best of our ability, subject to the limitation of current recording protocols and systems/software. Additional offences may have been recorded during these timescales but are awaiting finalisation and input onto these systems and would not be present within this dataset.

Every effort is made to ensure that the data presented is accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that this has been extracted from multiple sources, developed for specific policing purposes, for which data extraction methods have not been specifically designed to directly correlate with the terminology of this request. Therefore, the data presented is subject to the inaccuracies and idiosyncrasies inherent in any large-scale recording system.

As a consequence, care should be taken in the interpretation and presentation of this data, so as to not misrepresent the whole or any part of the data disclosed.

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 exemption has 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 30(1)(a)(b) – Criminal Investigations
- Section 30 is qualified and class based and, as such, we are required to apply the public interest test.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring disclosure under Section 30(1)(a)(b)

Disclosure of the information would improve the public's knowledge and understanding of the investigatory process and, as all police investigations are publicly funded, would show how public funds are being spent.

Factors favouring non-disclosure under Section 30(1)(a)(b)

Disclosure of the requested information would prejudice how investigations are carried out in the future. Staffordshire Police is charged with enforcing the law, preventing and detecting crime and protecting the communities we serve. Any release of information relating to ongoing investigations could prejudice and undermine those investigations. The prevention and detection of such matters could therefore be hindered and therefore risk interference with evidence, which could have detrimental impact on future investigations. In addition, the right to a fair trial could be undermined.

Balance test

Disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act is a release of information to the world in general and not an individual applicant. Having considered the public interest factors we are required to determine whether on balance the factors favouring disclosure outweigh those which are against disclosure. It is our view that the factors favouring disclosure do not outweigh those which favour non-disclosure.

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



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Receipt of a request for review will be acknowledged in writing. The review will be conducted by a Supervisor 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 Supervisor 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 Supervisor will reply to the appellant with the result of the review. If the appellant 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 link: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/foi-and-eir-complaints/foi-and-eir-complaints/>

Freedom of Information
Central Disclosure Unit