

8 August 2025

FOI Ref 21676

Request - You asked us the following:

Question 1: Please provide the number of crime or incident reports recorded by your force in which mopeds with L plates are specifically mentioned, for each of the past five calendar years, please provide the years 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024.

Question 2: Where available, please provide a breakdown by:

i.) Offence type of crime or incident reports recorded by your force in which mopeds with L plates are specifically mentioned for:

- Theft
- please provide both the proportion and number of the offences for 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024.

- Assault
- please provide both the proportion and number of the offences for 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024.

- Dangerous driving
- please provide both the proportion and number of the offences for 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024.

- Driving without a licence -
- please provide both the proportion and number of the offences for 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024.

ii.) Whether the moped involved in the offences relating to Question 2, i.) was recorded as a suspect vehicle, a stolen vehicle, or otherwise involved:

- Suspect vehicle
- please provide both the proportion and number of records for 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024.

- Stolen vehicle
- please provide both the proportion and number of records for 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024.

- Otherwise involved
- please provide both the proportion and number of records for 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024.

If this request exceeds the appropriate cost limit, please advise how it may be refined to bring it within the limit.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you need any clarification.

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:

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:

There is no method by which we can readily retrieve information from our systems to answer this request. For the time period requested, there have been in excess of 594,000 occurrences and 1,000,000 incidents which may have involved a moped with L plates. In order to determine this, the record for each offence and incident would require manual review. To extract this data would therefore require a very labour-intensive manual trawl through each record.

From dip sampling, it has been estimated that it would take approximately 3 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to over 79,700 hours. 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.

If your request was amended, Staffordshire Police would be able to provide the number of incident reports whereby the terms 'moped' / 'mopeds' / and 'L plate' / 'L plates' were present within the incident log for the years 2019-2024, broken down by offence type as stipulated in question 2 and how the moped was involved in the incident as stipulated in question 2ii.

Please note that this data would be obtained by completing a summary search for the terms "Moped" and "L Plate" or "mopeds" and "L plates". The accuracy and reliability of these searches cannot be guaranteed as only the MO / summary field and incident log of the report is searched. If this term is mentioned elsewhere (i.e. within the crime report, statements etc) these will not be returned in the results. Additionally, if the term is misspelt within the MO / summary field or incident log, this will not be returned. To provide accurate results would require manually interrogating each crime within the specified timeframe to establish its relevance to your request, therefore engaging section 12.

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



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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