

11 August 2025

FOI Ref 21699

Request - You asked us the following:

This is a request for information according to the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

It relates to a no further action decision following a report of rape or sexual assault.

Please note there are three parts to my request.

1. In the time period 1 January 2024 up to 31 July 2025, how many (a) rape investigations, (b) sexual assault by penetration investigations and (c) sexual assault investigations were carried out by your force. Please provide the data per offence, e.g. 1 rape; 2 sexual assault by penetration; 3 sexual assaults.
2. In the time period 1 January 2024 up to 31 July 2025, how many (a) rape investigations, (b) sexual assault by penetration investigations and (c) sexual assault investigations resulted in no further action at the point of the evidence being reviewed by the reviewing/supervising officer. Please provide the data per offence, e.g. 1 rape; 2 sexual assault by penetration; 3 sexual assaults.
3. In the time period 1 January 2024 up to 31 July 2025, how many (a) rape investigations, (b) sexual assault by penetration investigations and (c) sexual assault investigations in which the outcome was to take no further action, how many of those decisions were appealed by way of the victim asking for the case to be reviewed. (VRR process). Please provide the data per offence, e.g. 1 rape; 2 sexual assault by penetration; 3 sexual assaults.

We received your request on 06/08/2025 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 3,900 occurrences of rape, sexual assault and assault by penetration offences recorded. In order to determine if these occurrences resulted in no further action at the point of the evidence being reviewed by the supervising officer and, whether these decisions were appealed by way of the victim asking for the case to be reviewed, the record for each

offence would require manual review. To extract this data would therefore require a very labour-intensive manual review of each record.

From dip sampling, it has been estimated that it would take approximately 5 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to over 325 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 questions 3 was withdrawn, Staffordshire Police would be able to provide:

1. In the time period 1 January 2024 up to 31 July 2025, how many (a) rape investigations, (b) sexual assault by penetration investigations and (c) sexual assault investigations were recorded, broken down by offence.
2. The outcomes of each of the above rape, sexual assault by penetration and sexual assault offences.

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.



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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
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