

13 August 2025

FOI Ref 21712

Request - You asked us the following:

Please provide data on all recorded theft offences between 1 January 2020 and the most recent available month in 2025 where the Modus Operandi (MO), item description, or any other searchable field contains the word "tool" or "tools".

For each calendar year in this period, please provide:

1. The total number of such offences recorded.
2. The offence type (e.g. burglary, theft from a vehicle, other theft).
3. The broad location of the offence (e.g. town, city, or first half of postcode).
4. The recorded outcome (e.g. charge, arrest, no suspect identified).
5. If available, the total estimated value of tools reported stolen.

I would prefer the information to be provided in a spreadsheet format (e.g. CSV or Excel) if possible.

Clarification email sent to applicant on 11/08/2025:

Please can you confirm that you are happy for us to conduct a free text search in order to obtain this information? Please note that the data would be obtained by completing a summary search for the terms "tool", or "tools". The accuracy and reliability of these searches cannot be guaranteed as only the MO / summary field of the report is searched. If this term is mentioned elsewhere (i.e. within the call log, crime report, statements etc) these will not be returned in the results. Additionally, if the term is misspelt within the MO / summary field, 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 triggering Section 12. Please also note that to include question 5 within our searches would engage Section 12 as each offence record would need to be manually reviewed to establish the estimated value of tools reported stolen. Please confirm that you are happy to withdraw this question in order for us to fulfil your request.

Clarification email from applicant on 13/08/2025:

Yes I am happy for you to do a free text search.

Email to applicant on 13/08/2025:

Thank you for confirming this. Please can you also confirm that you are happy to withdraw question 5 in order for us to fulfil your request?

Email from applicant on 13/08/2025:

Yes.

We received your request on 08/08/2025 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Staffordshire Police's response to your enquiry is as follows:

Staffordshire Police holds/does not hold the requested information.

Please provide data on all recorded theft offences between 1 January 2020 and the most recent available month in 2025 where the Modus Operandi (MO), item description, or any other searchable field contains the word "tool" or "tools".

For each calendar year in this period, please provide:

- 1. The total number of such offences recorded. – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 21712 Tool Theft Data.xlsx'.**
- 2. The offence type (e.g. burglary, theft from a vehicle, other theft). – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 21712 Tool Theft Data.xlsx'.**
- 3. The broad location of the offence (e.g. town, city, or first half of postcode). – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 21712 Tool Theft Data.xlsx'.**
- 4. The recorded outcome (e.g. charge, arrest, no suspect identified). – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 21712 Tool Theft Data.xlsx'.**

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/incidents 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.

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.



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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
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