

28 August 2025

FOI Ref 21716

Request - You asked us the following:

- > Scope / time period:
- > Please provide the information requested below for the five-year period up to and including today: from 9 August 2020 to 8 August 2025 inclusive. Where you hold data by calendar or financial year, please provide a yearly breakdown for: 2020 (partial: from 9 Aug 2020), 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 (partial: to 8 Aug 2025). For every item below, break down results by year and by victim age group: Child (under 18 at date of report) and Adult (18 and over at date of report). Please also include a total for the whole period.
- > If a dataset field cannot be produced exactly as requested, please provide the nearest equivalent exportable data (e.g., internal category codes) and explain the difference.
- > Section A — Child victims warned they could be subject to criminal investigation/arrest 1. For incidents involving a child victim, the number of occasions where police informed the child or child family that they themselves could be subject to criminal investigation or arrest under the Sexual Offences Act where the other party was an adult. Provide counts by year (as defined above) If you record whether this occurred in writing or verbally, please include that breakdown.
- > Section B — Victim updates released before formal notification
- > 2. The number of cases where police released public updates or press statements about a suspect's remand, charge, sentence, or release before the victim (adult or child) had been formally notified. Provide counts broken down by:
 - > Year (as above).
 - > Victim age group (adult / child).
 - > Type of update (e.g., remand/charge, court appearance, sentencing, release from custody).
- > Section C — Family / parental arrests or interviews arising from complaints
- > 3. For reports where the victim was a child and where police action involved arrest or formal interview of a parent or immediate family member arising from complaints by (a) the police, or (b) the alleged predator, please provide (counts by year):
 - > Number of parents/family members arrested.
 - > Number of parents/family members formally charged.
 - > Number of parents/family members convicted.
 - > Number of parents/family members released without charge.
 - > Please indicate whether the original victim was a child or adult for each count.



- > 4. Repeat the counts in (3) for cases where the victim was an adult.
- > (If your systems do not link “parent/family member” to incidents
- > directly, provide the nearest available proxy — e.g., arrests linked
- > to the same incident ID — and explain the method used.)

- > Section D — Outcomes for sexual offences reports 5. For all crime
- > reports recorded under the Sexual Offences Act in the period, provide counts by year and by victim age (adult / child) for each outcome category at case closure or finalisation:

- > No further action (NFA) / no prosecution.
- > Released pending further investigation (i.e., not charged at initial decision).
- > Charged (formal charge applied).
- > Convicted (court conviction recorded).
- > Found not guilty / acquitted.

- > Section E — Additional counts requested (to expose poor practice)

- > 6. Number of occasions where a victim (adult or child) was informed that they might be treated as a suspect in the same investigation (counts by year and victim age).

- > 7. Number of occasions where the police recorded an internal investigation or misconduct review relating to handling of sexual offence allegations (counts by year; indicate whether linked to adult or child victim).

- > 8. Number of occasions where external bodies (CPS, IOPC, Local Authority Safeguarding) were notified about concerns relating to police handling of sexual offence cases (by year and victim age).

- > Section F — Registered sex offenders (on / off the register),
- > proximity to schools / parks, and town-level counts

- > 9. For each year in the period, provide the following aggregate counts for persons resident in the area your force manages (do not provide any names, addresses, or other personally-identifiable information):

- > a. Number currently subject to notification requirements (on-register) under the Sex Offenders Act or equivalent who were resident in the force area on the snapshot date for that year.

- > b. Number no longer on the register (previously required to notify but removed lawfully) who were resident in the force area on the snapshot date for that year.

- > c. For the populations in (a) and (b) separately, the number whose registered/residential address is located within a three-minute walk of:

- > Any school;
- > Any public park or playground;
- > Either a school or a park (combined).

- > d. For all counts in (a), (b), and (c), also provide a breakdown by town (or equivalent local administrative area / policing district used in your published crime statistics). If exact “town” boundaries are not recorded,

use the nearest equivalent spatial category available (e.g., beat area, sector, neighbourhood policing team boundary).

> 10. For the proximity counts in 9(c), please also provide a short methodology statement for each year specifying:

> Snapshot date used for the count (e.g., 8 Aug of each year or your local snapshot date).

> Whether you used registered/residential address or last known address.

> The distance definition used for “3-minute walk” (e.g., pedestrian network walk-time calculation or straight-line buffer in metres) and, if metres, the radius used. If a walk-time model was used, state the data source (e.g., Ordnance Survey, local authority walkway data) or routing algorithm.

> Any exclusions or caveats (e.g., suppressed addresses, sheltered housing exclusions, definition of school sites).

> Privacy note: only aggregate counts are requested. Where any town-level count would be fewer than 5 individuals, please merge into an “<5 / suppressed” category to protect privacy.

> Definitions & notes for clarity

> Sexual Offences Act: use your force’s local crime-recording tags / NCRS/IMPACT categories that constitute sexual offences. If you use different classification, please provide a mapping.

> Victim age: classify by victim age at date of report (child = under 18; adult = 18+).

> Arrest / charged / convicted: use force operational records. If conviction data is held by courts and not in force systems, please indicate that and provide what you can.

> “Informed” the child: include any instance where police explicitly told a child or the guardian of the child that the child could be investigated/charged, whether verbally or in writing.

> Town boundaries: if you publish standard tables by town/sector/beat, please use those published categories and indicate the category name used.

> Format and delivery (cost reduction)

> To assist in keeping this request within the Section 12 cost limit, the information may be provided in any reasonable aggregated form, including: A simple plain text table in the email body or a .txt file; A CSV or Excel spreadsheet; or A clearly structured Word or PDF document containing tables.

> I do not require extraction into a specific database export format if that would increase time or cost. If a category cannot be broken down exactly as specified, please provide the nearest available aggregated count and note the difference.

> Priority / cost-limit fallback

> If full compliance would exceed the Section 12 cost limit, please supply the following in priority order first:

> 1. Section D (Outcomes for sexual offences reports).

- > 2. Section F (Registered offender counts and methodology).
- > 3. Section A (Child victims warned they may be investigated/arrested).
- > 4. Section B (Victim updates released before formal notification).

Please accept our apologies for the oversight. We would like to clarify the definitions used in our request: A child is defined legally as anyone under the age of 16, and an adult is anyone aged 16 or over—unless the Sexual Offences Act classifies them differently.

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:

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 16,900 sexual offence occurrences, in order to ascertain any data to answer questions 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 9c, 9d and 10 the record for each offence would require a 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 10 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to over 2,816 hours. To achieve this task would therefore exceed the 18-hour time and cost threshold of the FOI 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.

To assist in refining your request, data can be provided for question 5 for all sexual offences recorded in the time period requested broken down by child and adult victims including outcomes. Data can also be provided for questions 7 and 8 regarding misconduct cases and also questions 9a and 9b regarding sex offenders.

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.

3. Review Procedure

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