

16 December 2025

FOI Ref 22018

Request - You asked us the following:

Please provide the following information for the period 1 January 2020 to the date of your search, unless otherwise stated, relating to your force's use of motorcycles for operational duties:

1) PPE Risk Assessments and Specifications (2023–Present)

- Copies (or latest versions) of any risk assessments or PPE procurement specifications governing motorcycle rider PPE, dated from 1 January 2023 onward.
- Please indicate any references to EN 17092, EN 13595, or other standards.
- Date of last review/revision for each document.

2) Collision and Injury Data (2020–Present)

- Total number of recorded collisions involving on-duty police motorcyclists.
- Of these, how many resulted in rider injury (minor / serious / fatal, if available).

3) PPE Damage / Replacement Records (2020–Present)

- Number of incidents where issued PPE (jacket, trousers, gloves, boots, helmet) was damaged/destroyed/replaced following a collision or operational incident.
- Where held, a short categorisation of damage (e.g., abrasion, tearing, impact).

4) Operational and Financial Impact (2020–Present)

- Working days lost due to sickness absence arising from motorcycle-related incidents.
- Approximate total cost to the force (repairs, replacement PPE, sickness pay) where retrievable within cost limits.

5) Policy/Standard Changes Since 2023

- Details of any changes or reviews to motorcycle PPE specification, procurement, or risk assessment since your 2023 FOI response (if applicable).
- Any participation in national projects/consultations/BSI committees (e.g., PH/3/9 or CEN/TC 162/WG 9) concerning motorcycle PPE.

Clarification received on 24/11/2025

In relation to Question 4, point 2 ("Approximate total cost to the force"), I confirm that I am requesting only the costs borne directly by Staffordshire Police — for example:

- repairs to police motorcycles,
- replacement of issued PPE,
- sickness pay or duty-time losses,
- or any other internal costs that the force routinely records.



I am not requesting any costs paid to third parties (e.g., compensation, liability settlements, insurance payouts, or any other externally directed expenditure).

We received your request on 27/10/2025 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

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

Staffordshire Police (SP) holds some of the requested information.

- Please provide the following information for the period 1 January 2020 to the date of your search, unless otherwise stated, relating to your force's use of motorcycles for operational duties:
- 1) PPE Risk Assessments and Specifications (2023–Present)
 - Copies (or latest versions) of any risk assessments or PPE procurement specifications governing motorcycle rider PPE, dated from 1 January 2023 onward.
 - Please indicate any references to EN 17092, EN 13595, or other standards.
 - Date of last review/revision for each document.
 - **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 22018 2025-2026 Operations Traffic General Duties of a Uniformed Motorcyclist'. The document refers to 'EN17092' on pages 1, 2 and 3. The date of this assessment was 10/10/2025 and will be reviewed in October 2026. No information held prior to this assessment. Please see the below exemptions.**
- 2) Collision and Injury Data (2020–Present)
 - Total number of recorded collisions involving on-duty police motorcyclists. – **Disclosed, 18.**
 - Of these, how many resulted in rider injury (minor / serious / fatal, if available). – **Disclosed, 1 slight injury.**
- 3) PPE Damage / Replacement Records (2020–Present)
 - Number of incidents where issued PPE (jacket, trousers, gloves, boots, helmet) was damaged/destroyed/replaced following a collision or operational incident.
 - Where held, a short categorisation of damage (e.g., abrasion, tearing, impact).
 - **No information held.**
- 4) Operational and Financial Impact (2020–Present)
 - Working days lost due to sickness absence arising from motorcycle-related incidents.
 - **Disclosed, 15 working days lost due to 1 incident.**
 - Approximate total cost to the force (repairs, replacement PPE, sickness pay) where retrievable within cost limits. – **Disclosed, £17,611.46. This is for SP costs only as requested.**
- 5) Policy/Standard Changes Since 2023
 - Details of any changes or reviews to motorcycle PPE specification, procurement, or risk assessment since your 2023 FOI response (if applicable).
 - Any participation in national projects/consultations/BSI committees (e.g., PH/3/9 or CEN/TC 162/WG 9) concerning motorcycle PPE.
 - **No information held.**

Please note that this data has been provided to the best of the ability of SP, subject to the limitation of current recording protocols and systems/software. Additional records 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.

Consequently, care should be taken in the interpretation and presentation of this data, to not misrepresent the whole or any part of the data disclosed.

The following exemptions have been applied:

In accordance with Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, this letter represents a refusal notice for parts of this particular request.

- Section 31 (1)(a)(b) Law Enforcement

Information is exempt from disclosure under S31 (1)(a)(b) where the release of Information would, or would likely to, prejudice the prevention and detection of crime and/or the apprehension or prosecution of offenders. This exemption is qualified and prejudice-based and, as such, we are required to evidence the harm in disclosure and apply the public interest test.

- Section 40(2) Personal Information

Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption which means that there is no need to quantify the harm that may arise from the disclosure; neither is it subject to a public interest test.

To release personal or third-party information held by Staffordshire Police, would breach the data protection principles; namely –

- Data is lawfully and fairly processed.
- Processed in line with an individual's rights.
- Data is secure.

Personal and third-party information cannot be released under the Freedom of Information Act.

Disclosure under Freedom of Information is a release of information to the world in general and not an individual applicant.

Harm:

To provide specific details regarding particular motorcycle users and their departments within the force could undermine existing or future investigations, operations and police tactics. It would allow those with ill intent to cause disruption to operational policing and prejudice the prevention and detection of crime. Knowing this information for motorcycle riders and the specific divisions they work in would allow individuals to target them more directly and be aware of which motorcycles are used for individual types of crimes or events. This would aid criminals in disrupting events involving these motorcycles.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring disclosure under Section 31(1)(a)(b)

To disclose this information would adhere to the basic principle of being open and transparent, it would also lead to a better public awareness of the workings of the police force and the communications used with operations and during routine policing.

Factors favouring non-disclosure under Section 31(1)(a)(b)

Releasing such data would give those individuals with the intent to do so, the intelligence required to disrupt police activity. This knowledge would allow those with ill intent to target their offending more effectively which would inevitably lead to an increased likelihood of criminal activity and an increased danger to the public. Any disclosure of information which is likely to undermine the ability to serve the public in preventing and detecting crime can only be considered as being harmful to the public.

Balance test

When considering whether disclosure is appropriate, we must weigh the strongest reason for disclosure against the strongest reasons for non-disclosure. In this case, whilst the factors favouring disclosure are important in that it would adhere to the basic principle of being open and transparent, we believe when weighed against the risk of disclosure undermining our ability to prevent and detect crime and hindering our ability to protect the public, then non-disclosure takes precedence.

Please be advised that all Freedom of Information request responses are published on the SP 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 SP, 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:

IAT@staffordshire.police.uk

Or by Post to:

Information Access Team
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 Information Access Team within two months of the SP 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 Information Access Team 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 twenty working days. In more complex cases the review may take up to forty 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, considering 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
Information Access Team