

5 December 2025

FOI Ref 22121

Request - You asked us the following:

1. The number of privately-owned e-scooters that were seized by your police force:
 - a. between 1 October 2021 to 30 September 2022;
 - b. between 1 October 2022 to 30 September 2023;
 - c. between 1 October 2023 to 30 September 2024;
 - d. between 1 October 2024 to 30 September 2025.
2. Of the e-scooters seized between 1 October 2021 and 30 September 2025, the number that were released back to owners:
 - a. between 1 October 2021 to 30 September 2022;
 - b. between 1 October 2022 to 30 September 2023;
 - c. between 1 October 2023 to 30 September 2024;
 - d. between 1 October 2024 to 30 September 2025.
3. The name and date of any specific operations your force has conducted, targeting the illegal or anti-social use of privately owned e-scooters. [Please specify if the operation also targeted enforcement of anti-social or illegal use of e-bikes or other forms of micromobility.]
4. Please provide the current policy or standard operating procedure for the disposal or handling of seized e-scooters.
5. Please provide a copy of any internal policy, guidance, or standard operating procedure (SOP) that governs how officers should approach enforcement action against e-scooter riders.

Staffordshire Police (SP) received your request on 14/11/2025 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 SP can readily retrieve information from systems to answer this request. For the time period requested, there have been in excess of 4,050 seized items with no recorded item. In order to ascertain if the item was an 'e-scooter' the record for each item would require a manual review

and further research would then be required in order to establish whether released back to owners. 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 5 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to over 337 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.

In order to assist in refining your request. Data could be provided where the property name is recorded as 'E-Scooter', broken down by your requested dates. However, seized items which are not recorded as 'e-scooter' or a different name would not be included in this data set. Likewise, data could be provided for the handling of seized e-scooters. However, please note further exemptions may apply.

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:

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 Force's response to the original FOI request.

3. Review Procedure



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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 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
Information Access Team