



1 December 2025

FOI Ref 22144

Request - You asked us the following:

Please provide the information below for the period from commencement of section 78 of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 to the most recent date for which figures are available, in relation to protests, demonstrations, vigils and other public assemblies.

A. PCSC Act 2022 section 78 and related conspiracy offences

For arrests made under:

- Section 78 PCSC Act 2022 – “Intentionally or recklessly causing public nuisance”; and
- Any related conspiracy offences, including but not limited to:
 - o Conspiracy to cause public nuisance
 - o Conspiracy to interfere with key national infrastructure
 - o Conspiracy to commit criminal damage

For each of the above, please state (where held):

1. Total number of arrests.
2. Number of suspects charged directly by the police (without CPS charging decision).
3. Number of cases referred to the CPS for a charging decision.
4. Number of suspects charged following CPS authorisation.
5. Number of prosecutions resulting in conviction (if known to the force).
6. Number of prosecutions resulting in acquittal (if known to the force).
7. Where possible, please specify the statutory provisions used for the conspiracy charges (e.g. common law conspiracy to cause public nuisance, or specific statutory conspiracy offences).

B. Equality-monitoring data

For the arrests listed above, please provide aggregate equality-monitoring data (where recorded), broken down by:

- Sex
- Age group
- Ethnicity
- Religion or belief
- Disability

If some of these fields are not recorded or not extractable within the appropriate cost limit, please provide what is available and indicate any gaps.

If no such arrests have been made, please confirm this.

If information is not held in a readily retrievable format for the whole period, please provide data for whatever period is available and state from which date reliable recording is possible.

We received your request on 21/11/2025 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 we can readily retrieve information from our systems to answer this request. For the time period requested, there have been in excess of 78 arrests made for the offences listed in the request. In order to determine the way in which each detainee was charged (Police or CPS charging decision), and the religion/belief or disability of the detainees, each custody log would require an in-depth manual review.

From dip sampling, it has been estimated that it would take approximately 15-20 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to between 19.5 and 26 hours. To achieve this task would therefore exceed the 18-hour time and cost threshold of the Freedom of Information Act by some 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 your request was refined, Staffordshire Police would be able to provide the following:

Between 28/06/2022 and 21/11/2025:

A. PCSC Act 2022 section 78 and related conspiracy offences

For arrests made under:

- Section 78 PCSC Act 2022 – “Intentionally or recklessly causing public nuisance”; and
- Any related conspiracy offences, including but not limited to:
 - o Conspiracy to cause public nuisance
 - o Conspiracy to interfere with key national infrastructure
 - o Conspiracy to commit criminal damage

For each of the above, please state (where held):

1. Total number of arrests.
2. Number of suspects charged.
3. A breakdown of the detainees by gender, age group and ethnicity.

Please note that Staffordshire Police do not hold conviction/acquittal data.

We would advise that you approach the Government HM Courts & Tribunals service website.

Please find below links to previously disclosed HMCTS data and details upon how to submit a further Freedom of Information request to the Government HM Courts and Tribunals Service for this information. Make an FOI request - [how to make a request](#).

Check [our previous releases](#) to see if we've already answered your question - [our previous releases](#)



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Make a new request by using the details below.

FOI requests

Disclosure Team

Postal Point 10.38, Floor 10

102 Petty France

London

SW1H 9AJ

United Kingdom

Email

data.access@justice.gov.uk

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

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.



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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