

3 December 2025

FOI Ref 22185

Request - You asked us the following:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please provide the following information for each of the past ten calendar years (2016–2025 inclusive, or the most recent years for which data is held):

1. The number of women investigated by your force for making a false allegation of rape, where the suspected offence was perverting the course of justice (or wasting police time).
2. The number of women charged with perverting the course of justice (or wasting police time, if relevant) in relation to allegedly false rape allegations.
3. The number of resulting prosecutions for these offences.
4. For each prosecution, please provide the outcome (guilty, not guilty, charges dropped/no further action)
5. For each conviction, please provide:
 - o The sentence imposed (e.g. custodial, suspended, community order)
 - o The length of any custodial sentence.

If possible, please provide this data in an annual breakdown.

If any part of the request exceeds the cost limit, please advise me on how it can be refined to remain within the statutory limit. If certain data is recorded under different offence codes or categories, please clarify how these are defined.

We received your request on 30/11/2025 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/does not hold the requested information.

Please provide the following information for each of the past ten calendar years (2016–2025 inclusive, or the most recent years for which data is held):

- 1. The number of women investigated by your force for making a false allegation of rape, where the suspected offence was perverting the course of justice (or wasting police time). – **Disclosed, 1 in 2018, 1 in 2021 and 1 in 2023. The remaining years are nil.**
- 2. The number of women charged with perverting the course of justice (or wasting police time, if relevant) in relation to allegedly false rape allegations. – **Disclosed, 1 in 2021.**
- 3. The number of resulting prosecutions for these offences. – **No information held.**
- 4. For each prosecution, please provide the outcome (guilty, not guilty, charges dropped/no further action) – **No information held.**

5. For each conviction, please provide:
- The sentence imposed (e.g. custodial, suspended, community order) – **No information held.**
 - The length of any custodial sentence. – **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 offences 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.

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.

Staffordshire Police do not hold conviction 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](#)

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 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