

29 December 2025

FOI Ref 22203

Request - You asked Staffordshire Police (SP) the following:

1. Do you have a formal, written policy for the disposal of ammunition (including seized, surrendered, obsolete, and expired stock)? If yes, please provide a copy or summary.
2. Does this policy vary if the ammunition is from force use or if it is surrendered by the public? If yes, please provide a copy or summary.
3. How many officers are involved in the handling and disposal of ammunition?
4. What types of ammunition does your force typically handle for disposal (select all that apply)
 - * Small arms
 - * Shotgun cartridges
 - * Large calibre
 - * Pyrotechnics
 - * Taser cartridges
 - * Other (please specify)
5. Do you keep detailed records of the type, nature, amount, and technical characteristics of all ammunition received for disposal?
6. Please provide figures for the amount and type of ammunition that has been disposed of in the last 3 years, broken down by year.
7. What are the authorized methods of ammunition disposal used by your department (select all that apply)
 - * Incineration
 - * Controlled detonation
 - * Demilitarisation
 - * Recycling
 - * Open burning
 - * Burial
 - * Other (please specify)
8. Are these disposal methods carried out internally or by a contracted, registered third party? If contracted please provide details of contractor
9. If using a third party, how do you verify their compliance with safety and environmental regulations?
10. Is recycling of components (e.g., brass casings) part of your disposal process or the responsibility of the person who disposes of the ammunition for you?



11. What specific procedures are in place for the safe disposal of damaged, worn, or potentially unstable ammunition?
12. How does your police force ensure that disposal methods comply with environmental regulations and minimize contamination risks?
13. Who is responsible for overseeing the entire ammunition disposal process, from seizure/surrender to final destruction/disposal and what records are kept for this process?
14. How many registered firearms dealers are registered with your police force?
15. How many dealer registers of firearms or ammunition transactions have you inspected over the last 3 years?
16. How many registered firearms dealers stocks from transactions have you inspected over the last 3 years?
17. Are you aware of how ammunition can be disposed of by registered firearms dealers? (Select all that apply)
 - * Burial
 - * Burning in the open air
 - * Recycling
 - * Incineration
 - * Other (please specify)

SP received your request on 03/12/2025 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

SP'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 questions 6 and 17 of this request. For the time period requested, there have been in excess of around 15,000 ammunition disposals, in order to ascertain the exact amount and the type of ammunition destroyed, the record for each one 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 3 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to over 750 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.

Please note that if you were to refine your request by withdrawing questions 6 and 17, SP would be able to provide data for questions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 16.

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 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