

11 December 2025

FOI Ref 22204

Request - You asked us the following:

1. How many people have been arrested and/or charged on suspicion of conspiracy to convey prohibited items into a prison? Including drones.

Please can I have data for the last six years in calendar years.

January 2020- December 2020
January 2021-December 2021
January 2022- December 2022
January 2023- December 2023
January 2024- December 2024
January 2024- December 2025

2. Please can the information also be split into prisons under the Staffordshire area e.g. HMP Stafford, HMP Swinfen Hall etc.

3. Please can the information also be split into the type of prohibited item e.g drones, drugs, sharp objects etc.

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

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

SP holds the requested information.

- 1. How many people have been arrested and/or charged on suspicion of conspiracy to convey prohibited items into a prison? Including drones.
- Please can I have data for the last six years in calendar years.
- January 2020- December 2020
- January 2021-December 2021
- January 2022- December 2022
- January 2023- December 2023
- January 2024- December 2024
- January 2024- December 2025
- 2. Please can the information also be split into prisons under the Staffordshire area e.g. HMP Stafford, HMP Swinfen Hall etc.

- 3. Please can the information also be split into the type of prohibited item e.g drones, drugs, sharp objects etc.
- **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 22204 Prohibited Items into Prisons Data'. Please see the below exemptions.**

Please note that there are a number of arrests that are still being investigated so with regard to these cases we are citing Section 30(1)(a)(b) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Investigations conducted by Public Authorities.

These matters are still included within the overall figure in question 1 however any further breakdown for question 2 and 3 has been exempted.

Please be advised that a search has been carried out for the arrest reason of 'Conspire to bring/throw/convey a List A/B/C prohibited article into/out of a prison' in the time period requested. Please note that although the location is listed for one of these as M6 Stafford Services, the offender/s were travelling to a prison outside of the Staffordshire area, no further details on this can be provided due to identification of individuals.

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 arrests 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.

Please be advised that all Freedom of Information request responses are published on the SP website although personal details are not included.

The following exemption has 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 30(1)(a)(b) Criminal Investigations

Section 30 is qualified and class based and, as such, we are required to 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.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring disclosure under Section 30(1)(a)(b)

Disclosure of the information would improve the public's knowledge and understanding of the investigatory process and, as all police investigations are publicly funded, would show how public funds are being spent.

Factors favouring non-disclosure under Section 30(1)(a)(b)

Disclosure of the requested information would prejudice how investigations are carried out in the future. SP is charged with enforcing the law, preventing and detecting crime and protecting the communities we serve. Any release of information relating to ongoing investigations could prejudice and undermine those investigations. The prevention and detection of such matters could therefore be hindered and therefore risk interference with evidence, which could have detrimental impact on future investigations. In addition, the right to a fair trial could be undermined.

Balance test

Disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act is a release of information to the world in general and not an individual applicant. Having considered the public interest factors we are required to determine whether on balance the factors favouring disclosure outweigh those which are against disclosure. It is our view that the factors favouring disclosure do not outweigh those which favour non-disclosure.

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:



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

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