

30 December 2025

FOI Ref 22274

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

For recorded domestic burglary offences only (i.e. residential premises), please provide the following data for the period 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2024:

1. Total number of domestic burglaries

The total number of recorded domestic burglary offences for each calendar year (2023 and 2024), shown separately.

2. Items stolen

A list of the items or item categories recorded as stolen in domestic burglary offences during this period.

3. Frequency of theft

The number of times each item or item category was recorded as stolen, broken down by year (2023 and 2024) where available.

4. Location within the property (if available) If recorded, please indicate whether stolen items were taken from:

Inside the main dwelling

A garage

A shed or outbuilding

Other external storage areas

5. Data format

Please provide the information in a tabular format (such as Excel or CSV), with clear column headings, for example:

Year

Total number of domestic burglaries

Item or item category

Number of recorded thefts

Location within property (if available)

If item-level descriptions are not held centrally, please provide the highest level of categorisation available (for example: jewellery, bicycles, power tools, electronics).

If fulfilling the full request would exceed the cost limit, I would be grateful if you could provide:

The top 10 most frequently stolen items or categories for each year, and

The total number of domestic burglaries for each year, and advise how the request may be refined.

SP received your request on 19/12/2025 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:

SP are able to provide data for question 1 but there is no readily retrievable method of obtaining the required information for the remaining questions. For the requested time period 4,511 residential burglaries were recorded within the SP area (2,323 in 2023 and 2,118 in 2024) but the only way to establish what items were stolen, and from which part of a premises etc. would require a manual review of each occurrence in turn. This would be a very labour intensive process.

From dip sampling, it has been estimated that it would take approximately 5 minutes to review each record which equates to over 375 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.

Unfortunately, we cannot suggest a way in which your request could be simplified or pared down in order to bring it within the confines of the time and cost threshold.

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.



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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.

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