



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

30 December 2025

FOI Ref 22278

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

1. Theft of Delivered Parcels

For the most recent 24-month period for which data is available, please provide the total number of recorded crimes involving the theft of delivered parcels from:

- Residential doorsteps
- Designated "safe places" (for example, porches, sheds, bins, or garages).

Please include:

- A monthly breakdown (month and year)
- The crime classification or offence code used to record these incidents.

2. Criminal Damage Associated With Deliveries

For the same 24-month period, please provide the total number of recorded incidents of criminal damage to residential property where:

- The damage was recorded as being caused by delivery personnel
- The damage occurred during or immediately following a delivery.

Please include:

- A monthly breakdown (month and year)
- The crime classification or offence code used.

Additional Information:

If the term "porch piracy" is not used internally, please interpret this request using the closest equivalent offence categories (for example, theft from outside a dwelling).

Please provide the information in CSV or Excel format, where possible.

SP received your request on 23/12/2025 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 this request. Between 30/12/2023 to 30/12/2025, there have been in excess of 12,110 reports of theft. In order to ascertain whether the theft involved a parcel, the record of each report would require manual review. In addition, further time would be required in order to determine the type of dwelling the parcels were stolen from. Likewise, there has been in excess of 8,430 reports of criminal damage. In order to ascertain whether the parcel damage was caused by delivery, the record of each offence would require a manual review.

From dip sampling, it has been estimated that it would take approximately 5 minutes to review each theft record and approximately 5 minutes to review each criminal damage record. To answer this request, this would equate to over 1,711 hours. To achieve this task would therefore exceed the 18-hour time and cost threshold of the Freedom of Information 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.

In order to assist in refining your request, data could be provided where the offence is recorded as 'Theft of mail bag or postal packet' from 30/12/2023 to 30/12/2025.

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.

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