

3 February 2025

FOI Ref 17671

Request - You asked us the following:

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

If it is not possible to provide all the information requested, please provide as much as possible in the time available. Please also provide advice and/or assistance as to where to find this information if it is publicly available or how I can refine my request.

1. The total number of targeted roadside checks for vehicle licence information carried out by your Police Force in 2022, 2023 and 2024?
2. The total number of vehicles issued with fines by the Police off the back of targeted roadside checks for vehicle licencing in 2022, 2023 and 2024?
3. The reasons for, and number of fines issued to owners as a result of targeted roadside checks (eg: incorrect information, licence being out of date etc)?
4. What are the total costs to vehicle drivers for fines issued per year by your Police Force?

Clarification provided 22/01/2025:

Please clarify whether you are requesting information relating to vehicle licence information – do you mean the registered keeper of the vehicle or driver's licence information?

It would be the driver's licence information. We're looking to see how many people don't / forget to update their licence when they change name / address etc.

In relation to question 4, are the total cost of fines related to the above, and if so, please can you clarify which exact offence you would like us provide fine information for?

When the information on the driving licence is found to be outdated.

We received your request on 14/01/2025 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Staffordshire Police'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 easily retrieve information from our systems to answer this request. For the time period requested, there have been in excess of 38,000 incidents recorded that may involve targeted roadside checks for vehicle licence information. In order to determine whether the incidents are relevant to this request, the record for each incident would require 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 5 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to over 3,166 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.

Although we are unable to provide a response to questions 1-3 due to time and cost constraints, outside of the Act as a gesture of goodwill, we can advise that we do not hold any information relating to question 4.

Please be advised that all Freedom of Information request responses are published on the Staffordshire Police 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 Staffordshire Police, 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:

foi@staffordshire.police.uk

Or by Post to:

Central Disclosure Unit
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 Central Disclosure Unit within two months of the Force's response to the original FOI request.



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3. Review Procedure

Receipt of a request for review will be acknowledged in writing. The review will be conducted by another Decision Maker who is independent from the original Decision Maker. The Central Disclosure Unit 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 Decision Maker 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 Decision maker will reply to the complainant with the result of the review. If the complainant 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 details:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

ICO Website for complaints link: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/foi-and-eir-complaints/foi-and-eir-complaints/>

Freedom of Information
Central Disclosure Unit