

4 February 2025

FOI Ref 17705

**Request - You asked us the following:**

I am writing to formally request the following information regarding motor vehicle thefts within the Staffordshire Police for the period from 01/01/2020 to 31/12/2024:

For the purposes of this request, "motor vehicle theft" refers to the offense of taking a motor vehicle without consent as defined under Section 12 of the Theft Act 1968. Whilst I understand some Police Force Areas record theft of motor vehicles differently (e.g. Theft of Motor Vehicle, Aggravated Vehicle Taking), any data matching the concept of motor vehicle theft is sufficient.

**Requested Information:**

1. Incident Number: A unique numeric identifier for each incident (this does not need to correspond with your internal system).
2. Date and Time: The date and time of the incident occurrence or, if unavailable, the date and time of the report. If time data is not recorded, please provide the date only.
3. Location: The most granular location data available (or that you are allowed to provide) for each incident, preferably in latitude and longitude coordinates. If latitude/longitude cannot be provided, please return the next most granular location data available.
4. Manufacturer: The vehicle's manufacturer. If this is not a distinct column in your records, please provide the free text field where a vehicle's manufacturer is mentioned.
5. Model: The vehicle's model. If this is not a distinct column in your records, please provide the free text field where a vehicle's model is mentioned.

**Format of Response:**

Please provide the data in an electronic format such as CSV or Excel to facilitate analysis. If the data is too large to send via email, please inform me of an alternative method to obtain the information.

We received your request on 22/01/2025 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

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

**Staffordshire Police holds the requested information.**

- I am writing to formally request the following information regarding motor vehicle thefts within the Staffordshire Police for the period from 01/01/2020 to 31/12/2024:
- For the purposes of this request, "motor vehicle theft" refers to the offense of taking a motor vehicle without consent as defined under Section 12 of the Theft Act 1968. Whilst I understand some Police Force Areas record theft of motor vehicles differently (e.g. Theft of Motor Vehicle, Aggravated Vehicle Taking), any data matching the concept of motor vehicle theft is sufficient.
- Requested Information:



- 1. Incident Number: A unique numeric identifier for each incident (this does not need to correspond with your internal system). – **Withheld, please see exemption below.**
- 2. Date and Time: The date and time of the incident occurrence or, if unavailable, the date and time of the report. If time data is not recorded, please provide the date only. – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 17705 Motor Vehicle Theft Data'.**
- 3. Location: The most granular location data available (or that you are allowed to provide) for each incident, preferably in latitude and longitude coordinates. If latitude/longitude cannot be provided, please return the next most granular location data available. – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 17705 Motor Vehicle Theft Data'.**
- 4. Manufacturer: The vehicle's manufacturer. If this is not a distinct column in your records, please provide the free text field where a vehicle's manufacturer is mentioned. – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 17705 Motor Vehicle Theft Data'.**
- 5. Model: The vehicle's model. If this is not a distinct column in your records, please provide the free text field where a vehicle's model is mentioned. – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 17705 Motor Vehicle Theft Data'.**
- Format of Response:
- Please provide the data in an electronic format such as CSV or Excel to facilitate analysis. If the data is too large to send via email, please inform me of an alternative method to obtain the information.

Please be advised that the data has been provided for all relevant motor vehicle theft offences in the time period requested.

Please note that there are 368 offences 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. Please also be advised that where there are blank fields in the data set, this is where no data has been recorded. Please note that where the time states '00:00' for the first few months of 2020, this is due to these records being transferred from the old crime recording system to the new crime recording system that began in May 2020.

Please note that this data has been provided to the best of our ability, subject to the limitation of current recording protocols and systems/software. Additional offences 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.

As a consequence, care should be taken in the interpretation and presentation of this data, so as 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 Staffordshire Police website although personal details are not included.

**The following exemptions have been applied:**

In accordance with Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, this letter represents a refusal notice for 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 sought 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. Staffordshire Police 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.

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](mailto: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.

### **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:



STAFFORDSHIRE  
**POLICE**

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