

13 February 2025

FOI Ref 17765

Request - You asked us the following:

I would be grateful if you could please provide responses to the following points raised in the below Freedom of Information request.

1. How many adult survivors have lost their entitlement to receive a “widow’s pension” because they have either remarried or started to cohabit? Please provide the relevant data for each Police Force over the last ten years on a year-by-year basis.
2. How many adult survivors have had their pension reinstated in circumstances where they have divorced their new spouse or ceased cohabitation with their new partner? Again please provide the relevant data for each Police Force over the last 10 years.
3. What information is given to a widow when a widows pension first comes into payment? Please provide copies of the information provided.
4. What further information is sent to a widow once the pension is in payment? Please provide copies.
5. Do you send letters to widows periodically to verify they are still living alone and not remarried or cohabiting? If so please provide copies
6. Do you require a countersigned certificate to verify a widow has not remarried or cohabited? If so please provide copies.
7. If a widow remarries or cohabits, what information do you send to the widow? Please provide copies.
8. Do you send further letters to those whose pension has been withdrawn as a result of remarriage or cohabitation to verify their circumstances are still the same [i.e. they are still remarried or cohabiting]? If so please provide copies.
9. What information do you send a widow if a pension is reinstated? Please provide copies.

We received your request on 03/02/2025 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

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

Staffordshire Police holds/does not hold the requested information.

1. How many adult survivors have lost their entitlement to receive a “widow’s pension” because they have either remarried or started to cohabit? Please provide the relevant data for each Police Force over the last ten years on a year-by-year basis. – **No information held.**
2. How many adult survivors have had their pension reinstated in circumstances where they have divorced their new spouse or ceased cohabitation with their new partner? Again please provide the relevant data for each Police Force over the last 10 years. – **Disclosed, 1.**
3. What information is given to a widow when a widows pension first comes into payment? Please provide copies of the information provided. – **Disclosed, please see attached file titled ‘FOI 17765 Widow’s Pensions Data.PDF’.**

4. What further information is sent to a widow once the pension is in payment? Please provide copies. – **Disclosed, please see attached file titled 'FOI 17765 Widow's Pensions Data.PDF'.**
5. Do you send letters to widows periodically to verify they are still living alone and not remarried or cohabiting? If so please provide copies – **Disclosed, no.**
6. Do you require a countersigned certificate to verify a widow has not remarried or cohabited? If so please provide copies. – **Disclosed, no.**
7. If a widow remarries or cohabits, what information do you send to the widow? Please provide copies. – **Disclosed, please see attached file titled 'FOI 17765 Widow's Pensions Data.PDF'.**
8. Do you send further letters to those whose pension has been withdrawn as a result of remarriage or cohabitation to verify their circumstances are still the same [i.e. they are still remarried or cohabiting]? If so please provide copies. – **Disclosed, no.**
9. What information do you send a widow if a pension is reinstated? Please provide copies. – **Disclosed, please see attached file titled 'FOI 17765 Widow's Pensions Data.PDF'.**

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.

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.

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



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

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:

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