



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

18 February 2025

FOI Ref 17827

Request - You asked us the following:

REQUEST 1:

What would you like to know?: What is the number of incidents of sexual assaults and rapes (as defined by Sec 1, 2 and 3 of the Sexual Offences Act, 2003) are reported to the Constabulary (including recent and historic rape) between Jan 2019 - Dec 2023?

REQUEST 2:

What would you like to know?: Among the cases noted in the above, what is the incidence of early evidence kit utilization and subsequent DNA collection from the victim?

REQUEST 3:

What would you like to know?: In instances where DNA was gathered utilizing the early evidence kit, could you specify the types of DNA collected, for example semen samples, vaginal fluid, or other relevant biological materials?

REQUEST 4:

What would you like to know?: Could you provide a comprehensive outline of the specific procedures employed for the collection of each type of DNA mentioned previously, within the context of the aforementioned DNA samples?

REQUEST 5:

What would you like to know?: What are the established standard operating procedures unique to your constabulary that govern the collection of DNA from sexual assault and rape victims when using the early evidence kit and forensic medical examinations, that adhere to FSR protocols and best practices in evidence collection?

REQUEST 6:

What would you like to know?: Could you provide the titles of the personnel involved in the process of DNA collection from the victim, including any specialized staff or qualified professionals?



REQUEST 7:

What would you like to know?: Regarding the DNA samples collected from victims, I would like to inquire about the utilization of these samples (from early evidence kits) in court proceedings. Could you provide insight into the proportion of these samples that were introduced as evidence in court?

REQUEST 8:

What would you like to know?: What were the reasons or factors underlying for the exclusion of the DNA evidence samples in court?

We received your request on 12/02/2025 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 readily retrieve information from our systems to answer this request. For the time period requested, there have been in excess of 7,470 occurrences which relate to Sec 1, 2 and 3 of the Sexual Offences Act, 2003. In order to ascertain whether the use of an early evident kit was employed and DNA collected would mean a manual trawl through each occurrence log. 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 4 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to over 498 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.

In order to assist in refining your request. Data can be provided for question1 where the offence is recorded as Sec 1, 2 and 3 of the Sexual Offences Act, 2003 for your requested time period.

Furthermore, we do not hold data for questions 3,4,5,6,7 and 8.

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.

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



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

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