

25 February 2025

FOI Ref 17851

Request - You asked us the following:

Hello, it has come to my attention that some police forces remove data relating to personnel who are no longer working for them.

For example, if I asked in Sept 2024 how many officers had taken sick leave for mental health reasons in 2020 the response might be 200 - but if I asked exactly the same question in January 2025, that figure might change to 150 if 50 of those officers had since left the force.

Please could you let me know if your force carries out this practice, and if so, has it affected any of the data provided to my FOIs?

We received your request on 18/02/2025 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

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

Staffordshire Police does not hold the requested information.

- Please could you let me know if your force carries out this practice, and if so, has it affected any of the data provided to my FOIs? – **No information held.**

Please note that the Freedom of Information Act 2000 only extends to requests for recorded information. It does not require public authorities to create information to answer questions generally; only if the information is already held in recorded form.

Please be advised that all Freedom of Information request responses are published on the Staffordshire Police website although personal details are not included.

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 it does not relate exactly to your request, for Staffordshire Police's Disposal and Retention Schedule for Police Records, please see here:

<https://www.staffordshire.police.uk/SysSiteAssets/media/downloads/staffordshire/privacy/retention-schedule.pdf>

Freedom of Information Request Appeals Procedure

1. Who Can Ask for a Review



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

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
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF



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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