

21 February 2025

FOI Ref 17865

Request - You asked us the following:

- Please provide the total number of recorded road traffic accidents in the UK (Scotland, England, Wales, North Ireland) from January 2024 to February 2025. Additionally, identify which month had the highest number of incidents.
- Break down these accidents by severity, categorising them into fatal, serious, and slight injuries.
- Provide a dataset detailing the number of road traffic accidents involving pedestrians, cyclists, scooters, and motorcyclists during this period.
- What were the leading causes of road traffic accidents in the given timeframe? Please include a statistical breakdown by category, such as speeding, drink-driving, reckless driving, poor weather conditions, vehicle defects, and driver distraction (e.g., mobile phone use).
- How many of these accidents involved drivers aged under 25 years old or over 70 years old? If available, please indicate any trends or patterns related to these age groups.
- Identify the most hazardous roads and junctions based on accident frequency during this period, along with the total number of incidents recorded at each location.
- Provide a ranked list of UK cities and regions with the highest number of traffic accidents, specifying the recorded figures for each.

We received your request on 21/02/2025 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 11,000 road traffic incidents recorded on our incident recording system. In order to determine the involvement of other parties, the leading causes of road traffic accidents and the ages of the drivers involved, 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 916 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.

If questions 3, 4 and 5 were withdrawn, and question 1 amended to Staffordshire only, Staffordshire Police would be able to provide the total number of recorded road traffic accidents in Staffordshire, broken down by month and severity. Staffordshire Police would also be able to provide the top 10 roads with the most recorded road traffic accidents within Staffordshire, and the top 10 towns/cities with the most recorded road traffic accidents.

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



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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