

16 January 2025

FOI Ref 17508

Request - You asked us the following:

Can you detail any national or regional functions/partnerships/specialisms that are hosted by your force or that your force leads?

For example, WDTK notes that;

ACRO is hosted by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary -
<https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/body/acro>
CPTHQ is hosted by the Metropolitan Police - <https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/body/cpthq>
CMPG is hosted by West Midlands Police -
https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/body/central_motorway_police_group

Can you detail any national or regional functions/partnerships/specialisms that your force participates in?

For example,

NPAS is hosted by West Midlands Police, but have participation from all forces in England & Wales.

For each national or regional functions/partnerships/specialism, please detail; Number of officers staff seconded out & where to - include rank for officers and role & grade for staff.

Number of officers staff seconded out & where from - include rank for officers and role & grade for staff.

Also detail any of the above that have ended in the last 10 years. If this exceeds cost. proceed with the remainder of the request above.

We received your request on 25/11/2024 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.

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https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/body/central_motorway_police_group - **Withheld.**



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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 21(1) - Information reasonably accessible by other means.
Section 21 is an absolute, class-based exemption and as such there is no requirement to quantify the harm that may arise from the disclosure, nor is there a requirement to perform a Public Interest Test.
- Section 31 (1) (a) (b) - Law Enforcement.
Information is exempt from disclosure under S31 (1) (a) (b) where the release of Information would, or would likely to, prejudice the prevention and detection of crime and/ or the apprehension or prosecution of offenders. This exemption is qualified and prejudice-based and, as such, we are required to evidence the harm in disclosure and apply the public interest test.

Harm:

Disclosure of the details of any national or regional functions/partnerships/specialisms that are hosted by Staffordshire Police, or that Staffordshire Police leads, would reveal tactical capability and vulnerabilities and would compromise the efficient and effective conduct of Staffordshire Police during these operations. The safety of the public is of a paramount importance to Staffordshire Police and to release the details of these partnerships locally or nationally if not already in the public domain would compromise the safety of the public that Staffordshire Police serve to protect.

Furthermore, this would impact the future law enforcement capabilities of Staffordshire Police in the prevention and detection of crime as criminals intent on committing crime will have an insight on how and when police resources are used.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring disclosure under Section 31(1)(a)(b)

To disclose details about force led operations or regional functions/partnerships/specialisms that Staffordshire Police participate in, be that past or present, would show accountability of Staffordshire Police. Disclosure would encourage public awareness and debate and may reduce crime or lead to more

information being provided to Staffordshire Police from the public. Disclosure would also show Staffordshire Police's use of resources to prevent crime.

Factors favouring non-disclosure under Section 31(1)(a)(b)

To disclose details of functions/partnerships Staffordshire Police are leading or involved in would compromise the efficient and effective conduct of the force, especially the force's future law enforcement tactics being compromised. The safety of the public is paramount importance to Staffordshire Police and to release the requested information would compromise the safety of the community that Staffordshire Police have sworn to protect. Disclosure would lead to a greater impact on police resources, in that this could hinder the prevention and detection of crime and more crime being committed in the future. It would give advantage to those individuals intent on criminal activity, and it may assist potential criminals evading the police as policing levels would become evident. A fear of crime will be realised as criminals identify vulnerability and target and exploit the force resulting in the public being in fear of more criminal activity occurring.

Balance test

When considering whether disclosure is appropriate, we must weigh the strongest reason for disclosure against the strongest reasons for non-disclosure. In this case, whilst the factors favouring disclosure are important in that it would adhere to the basic principle of being open and transparent, we believe when weighed against the risk of disclosure undermining our ability to prevent and detect crime and hindering our ability to protect the public, then non-disclosure takes precedence.

Advice and assistance

In order to comply with our obligations under Section 16 of the Act, the obligation to provide advice and assistance, please find below links to the information requested.

- <https://www.westmidlands.police.uk/police-forces/west-midlands-police/areas/about-us/about-us/regional-organised-crime-unit/#:~:text=WMROCU%20is%20made%20up%20of,Find%20out%20more%20about%20ROCU%20>.
- <https://staffssaferroads.co.uk/about-ssrp/>
- <https://www.counterterrorism.police.uk/west-midlands/>
- <https://www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk/transparency/collaboration/>
- <https://www.staffordshire.police.uk/SysSiteAssets/foi-media/staffordshire/what-we-spend/opcc-annual-governance-statement-2023-2024.pdf>
- <https://www.staffordshire.police.uk/news/staffordshire/news/2023/november/police-welcome-commissioner-to-new-roadside-base/>
- <https://www.npas.police.uk/what-we-do/how-we-assist-police-forces>

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