

27 January 2025

FOI Ref 17607

Request - You asked us the following:

HMICFRS report (December 2024):

'An inspection of the police response to the public disorder in July and August 2024

Tranche 1: capacity and capability, co-ordination and mobilisation, and well-being'

<https://hmicfrs.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/news/news-feed/police-forces-must-be-better-prepared-to-tackle-future-instances-of-violent-disorder/>

The above report refers to the mobilisation by police forces of Public Order Public Safety (POPS) trained police officers to deal with the public disorder in July and August 2024 (p4).

A link is provided to information identifying the three levels of public order public safety training available to officers:

<https://hmicfrs.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/glossary/public-order-public-safety-training/>

1. Please provide the total number of POPS trained police officers you have.
2. Please provide the number of POPS trained officers who have completed training at (i) level 1, (ii) level 2 and (iii) level 3.
3. Please provide the number of POPS trained officers from other forces you used in Operation Navette.
4. Please provide the total amount you spent accommodating POPS trained officers from other forces during Operation Navette.

We received your request on 30/12/2024 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

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

Staffordshire Police holds the requested information.

- HMICFRS report (December 2024):
- 'An inspection of the police response to the public disorder in July and August 2024
- Tranche 1: capacity and capability, co-ordination and mobilisation, and well-being'
- <https://hmicfrs.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/news/news-feed/police-forces-must-be-better-prepared-to-tackle-future-instances-of-violent-disorder/>



- The above report refers to the mobilisation by police forces of Public Order Public Safety (POPS) trained police officers to deal with the public disorder in July and August 2024 (p4).
- A link is provided to information identifying the three levels of public order public safety training available to officers:
- <https://hmicfrs.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/glossary/public-order-public-safety-training/>
- 1. Please provide the total number of POPS trained police officers you have. - **Disclosed, 1,147.**
- 2. Please provide the number of POPS trained officers who have completed training at (i) level 1, (ii) level 2 and (iii) level 3. – **Withheld.**
- 3. Please provide the number of POPS trained officers from other forces you used in Operation Navette. – **Withheld.**
- 4. Please provide the total amount you spent accommodating POPS trained officers from other forces during Operation Navette. – **Disclosed, Total Officer Costs - £30,503.22. Total Other Costs - £33,198.46**

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.

The following exemption has 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 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

To provide a breakdown of the officers trained at either Level 1, Level 2 or Level 3 Public Order Training would impact Staffordshire Police's ability to effectively police protests and disorder, and thus keep the public safe. A cautious approach has to be undertaken for releasing any information under FOI which could be used advantageously by criminals or those with intent to commit crime or cause disruption. It is reasonable to suggest that criminals and gangs intent on instigating violence could use information about specific operational capability and levels of Public Order Officer Training to determine which forces may and may not have greater vulnerability when it comes to policing protests and disorder.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring disclosure for Section 31

To disclose this information would adhere to the basic principle of being open and transparent, it would also lead to a better public awareness of the workings of the police force and the tactics used with operations and during routine policing.

Factors favouring non-disclosure for Section 31

Releasing such data would give those individuals with the intent to do so, the information required to disrupt police activity. This knowledge would allow those with ill intent to target their offending more effectively which would inevitably lead to an increased likelihood of criminal activity and an increased danger to the public. Any disclosure of information which is likely to undermine the ability to serve the public in preventing and detecting crime can only be considered as being harmful to the public.

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.

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



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

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