

14 January 2025

FOI Ref 17609

Request - You asked us the following:

1. How many Staffordshire officers were the subject of complaints in the calendar year 2024?
2. How many complaints were dismissed by the investigating officer but appealed and considered by your Professional Standards Department (PSD)?
3. How many of these complaints did the PSD uphold?
4. Optional for context: How many officers were serving in your Force in 2024?

We received your request on 31/12/2024 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.

1. How many Staffordshire officers were the subject of complaints in the calendar year 2024? – **Disclosed, 1510 officers were the subject of complaints in 2024. Please note that this figure does not include complaints where there has been an 'unidentified' officer, and there can be multiple subject officers for one complaint. An officer may be subject to multiple complaints.**
2. How many complaints were dismissed by the investigating officer but appealed and considered by your Professional Standards Department (PSD)? – **Disclosed, nil. Please note that PSD does not complete the appeals. If the complainant wishes for their complaint to be reviewed this is done by an independent body. Depending on the allegation this could be to the LPB (Local Policing Body – in our case this is the OPCC, Office of the Police Crime Commissioner) or the IOPC.**
3. How many of these complaints did the PSD uphold? – **Not applicable.**
4. Optional for context: How many officers were serving in your Force in 2024? – **Withheld, please see below.**

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 parts of 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.



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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.staffordshire.police.uk/SysSiteAssets/foi-media/staffordshire/employee-analysis-2024.pdf>

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.



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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