



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

13 January 2025

FOI Ref 17639

Request - You asked us the following:

I have heard of a scam where scammers pose as potential buyers, visit a car in person, distract the seller and sabotage the car to ask for the car at a lower price. I have seen that Surrey Police have mentioned this as part of their April 2024 Newsletter: <https://www.surrey.police.uk/police-forces/surrey-police/areas/campaigns/campaigns/2024/fraud-newsletter---april-2024-edition/>

Please may you provide me with:

- 1) Is the above type of scam something your force have seen reports of during 2024 (1st January 2024 - 31st December 2024)?
- 2) How many cases of this type of fraud were reported to your force, between:
 - a) 1st January 2024 - 30th June 2024
 - b) 1st July 2024 - 31st December 2024(if you are not able to provide figures between this window, please provide 1 year stats for the 2024 year, or 1 year and the date range they apply for)
- 3) Therefore, have you seen an increase/decrease in this type of fraud in the year 2024 compared to the previous year? (1st January 2023 - 31st December 2023 vs 1st January 2024 - 31st December 2024)?
- 4) How many cases of motor fraud were reported to your force between:
 - a) 1st January 2024 - 30th June 2024
 - b) 1st July 2024 - 31st December 2024(if you are not able to provide figures between this window, please provide 1 year stats for the 2024 year, or 1 year and the date range they apply for)
- 5) Therefore, have you seen an increase/decrease in motor fraud in the year 2024 compared to the previous year? (1st January 2023 - 31st December 2023 vs 1st January 2024 - 31st December 2024)

We received your request on 08/01/2025 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 may you provide me with:

- 1) Is the above type of scam something your force have seen reports of during 2024 (1st January 2024 - 31st December 2024)? – **No information held.**
- 2) How many cases of this type of fraud were reported to your force, between:
 - a) 1st January 2024 - 30th June 2024 – **No information held.**
 - b) 1st July 2024 - 31st December 2024 – **No information held.**

(if you are not able to provide figures between this window, please provide 1 year stats for the 2024 year, or 1 year and the date range they apply for)



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- 3) Therefore, have you seen an increase/decrease in this type of fraud in the year 2024 compared to the previous year? (1st January 2023 - 31st December 2023 vs 1st January 2024 - 31st December 2024)? – **No information held.**
- 4) How many cases of motor fraud were reported to your force between:
 - a) 1st January 2024 - 30th June 2024 – **No information held.**
 - b) 1st July 2024 - 31st December 2024 – **No information held.**

(if you are not able to provide figures between this window, please provide 1 year stats for the 2024 year, or 1 year and the date range they apply for)

- 5) Therefore, have you seen an increase/decrease in motor fraud in the year 2024 compared to the previous year? (1st January 2023 - 31st December 2023 vs 1st January 2024 - 31st December 2024) – **No information held.**

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.

Staffordshire Police is unable to provide data regarding fraud offences as the majority of these are now recorded by Action Fraud. Action Fraud is the national centre responsible for receiving, recording and disseminating reports of fraud.

The Action Fraud website is:

<http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>

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.

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