

16 January 2025

FOI Ref 17676

Request - You asked us the following:

I would like to know how many offences have been recorded under the non-fatal strangulation offence (s75A Serious Crime Act 2015 (as amended by Domestic Abuse Act 2021), since it was introduced in June 2022. Please could you tell me the following:

1. How many crimes of non-fatal strangulation (s75A Serious Crime Act 2015) have you recorded between 7 June 2022 to the 31 Dec 2024, broken down by year? Please include all occurrences, including where this is not the primary offence.
2. Please also provide a count of all other offences associated with the investigations from Q1, i.e. other secondary or primary offences that were recorded at the same time, for example if it was recorded alongside a sexual offence. Please list full offence titles and total count these of linked offences over the time period.
3. For all of the investigations in Q1, please extract and send the redacted crime MO.
4. Please provide a separate breakdown of total victims and suspects count by a) age group (categories: Aged 15 years and under · Aged 16 to 24 years · Aged 25 to 34 years · Aged 35 to 49 years · Aged 50 to 64 years · Aged 65 years and over) and b) gender, linked to investigations from Q1
5. Please provide a separate breakdown of case outcomes: for non-live cases, by outcome type and total count, for investigations from Q1.
6. Please provide a separate breakdown of the total number of arrests where non-fatal strangulation is part of the of the arrest offences.

If request Q3 takes my request over time exemptions, please disregard it.

We received your request on 15/01/2025 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 1,600 related occurrences, in order to ascertain whether there was another offence listed as the primary or secondary offence alongside this one the record for each offence would require a manual review. To extract this data would therefore require a very labour-intensive manual trawl through each record. Additionally each MO would need to be reviewed with regards to question 3 which would also require a manual trawl through each log.

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 133 hours. To achieve this task would therefore exceed the 18-hour time and cost threshold of the FOI 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.

In order to refine your request, data can be provided in full for questions 1, 4, 5 and 6.

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.



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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