

30 January 2025

FOI Ref 17690

Request - You asked us the following:

Where possible, can you please provide me with the following in regards to missing persons:

Number of individual adults reported missing in the last rolling twelve months.

Total number of missing "periods" reported to your force (1 adult reported as missing twice would be two "periods").

Percentage of adults who are known to have been caused harm during a missing person episode.

Percentage of adults who are known to have caused themselves harm during a missing person episode.

Percentage of these adults reported as missing who could be considered as "frequent mispers" (10+ episodes in a rolling twelve month period).

Number of individual children reported missing in the last rolling twelve months.

Total number of missing "periods" for children.

Total number of these children reported missing from care homes.

Percentage of children who have been caused harm during a missing person episode.

Percentage of children who have caused themselves harm during a missing person episode.

Percentage of these children that have been reported as missing who could be considered as "frequent mispers" (20+ episodes in a rolling twelve month period).

Total number of low risk missing persons (for each of the last 5 years)

Average length of time missing for low risk missing persons (for each of the last 5 years)

Number of low risk missing persons who have been found deceased during a missing period (for each of the last 5 years)

Total number of medium risk missing persons (for each of the last 5 years)

Average length of time missing for medium risk missing persons (for each of the last 5 years)

Number of medium risk missing persons who have been found deceased during a missing period (for each of the last 5 years)

Total number of high risk missing persons (for each of the last 5 years)

Average length of time missing for high risk missing persons (for each of the last 5 years)

Number of high risk missing persons who have been found deceased during a missing period (for each of the last 5 years)

We received your request on 17/01/2025 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

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

Staffordshire Police holds the requested information.

- Where possible, can you please provide me with the following in regards to missing persons:
- Number of individual adults reported missing in the last rolling twelve months. – **Disclosed, 1266.**
- Total number of missing “periods” reported to your force (1 adult reported as missing twice would be two “periods”). – **Disclosed, 1519.**
- Percentage of adults who are known to have been caused harm during a missing person episode. – **Disclosed, 0.4%.**
- Percentage of adults who are known to have caused themselves harm during a missing person episode. – **Disclosed, 3.8%.**
- Percentage of these adults reported as missing who could be considered as “frequent mispers” (10+ episodes in a rolling twelve month period). – **Disclosed, 0.2%.**
- Number of individual children reported missing in the last rolling twelve months. – **Disclosed, 1337**
- Total number of missing “periods” for children. – **Disclosed, 3507.**
- Total number of these children reported missing from care homes. – **Disclosed, 357.**
- Percentage of children who have been caused harm during a missing person episode. – **Disclosed, 0.8%.**
- Percentage of children who have caused themselves harm during a missing person episode. – **Disclosed, 2.5%.**
- Percentage of these children that have been reported as missing who could be considered as “frequent mispers” (20+ episodes in a rolling twelve month period). – **Disclosed, 1.2% (this is a percentage of the total individual children, not the harmed ones).**
- Total number of low risk missing persons (for each of the last 5 years) – **Disclosed,**
2024 – 18
2023 – 17
2022 – 30
2021 – 53
2020 – 44
- Average length of time missing for low risk missing persons (for each of the last 5 years) – **Disclosed,**
Since last seen
2024 – 34.32 hours
2023 – 67.98 hours
2022 – 88.07 hours
2021 – 113.13 hours
2020 – 67.07 hours
- Number of low risk missing persons who have been found deceased during a missing period (for each of the last 5 years) – **Disclosed,**
2024 – 0
2023 – 0
2022 – 0
2021 – 0



2020 – 0

- Total number of medium risk missing persons (for each of the last 5 years) – **Disclosed,**
2024 - 1540
2023 - 1461
2022 - 1304
2021 - 1861
2020 - 1373
- Average length of time missing for medium risk missing persons (for each of the last 5 years) – **Disclosed,**
Since last seen
2024 – 69.98 hours
2023 – 91.52 hours
2022 – 103.9 hours
2021 – 137.2 hours
2020 – 220.58 hours
- Number of medium risk missing persons who have been found deceased during a missing period (for each of the last 5 years) – **Disclosed,**
2024 - 3
2023 - 6
2022 - 8
2021 - 10
2020 - 4
- Total number of high risk missing persons (for each of the last 5 years) – **Disclosed,**
2024 - 1540
2023 - 1461
2022 - 1304
2021 - 1861
2020 - 1373
- Average length of time missing for high risk missing persons (for each of the last 5 years) – **Disclosed,**
Since last seen
2024 – 1358 hours
2023 – 1742 hours
2022 – 2147 hours
2021 – 762 hours
2020 – 438 hours
- Number of high risk missing persons who have been found deceased during a missing period (for each of the last 5 years) – **Disclosed,**
2024 - 16
2023 - 13
2022 - 17

2021 - 12
2020 - 9

Please be advised that some of our high risk missing persons can be missing for a long time and sometimes never get found (although nowadays this is rare).

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. Additional incidents may have been recorded during these timescales but are awaiting finalisation and input onto these systems and would not be present within this dataset.

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.

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
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