

17 July 2025

FOI Ref 21475

Request - You asked us the following:

I hope you are well. I'm writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act. The details of my request are below. I appreciate that I am asking for three pieces of information. If it is not possible to release all the information I have requested, please provide all of the information that you can within the terms of the Act.

1. Ethnicity of suspects charged in cases of multi-offender child sexual offences

What I'm requesting: Ethnicity data on suspects charged with a sexual offence or offences against a victim or victim aged under 18 at the time of the offence, where the case involved two or more offenders or suspected offenders, broken down as follows:

- Number of Asian suspects charged
- Number of Black suspects charged
- Number of White suspects charged
- Number of Other Ethnicity suspects charged
- Number of suspects charged where ethnicity is Unknown

Please indicate whether suspects' ethnicity is recorded based on self-defined ethnicity, ethnic appearance data or other criteria.

Timeframe: Suspects charged in the last three calendar years (January 2022 to January 2025). If that is not possible, please provide information on suspects charged in the last three financial years (March 2022 to March 2025). If that is not possible, please provide the most recent 12 months' of data that you can retrieve.

2. Ethnicity of suspects in ongoing cases of multi-offender child sexual offences

What I'm requesting: Ethnicity data on suspects in all cases involving two or more offenders or suspected offenders of sexual offences against a victim or victims aged under 18 at the time of the offence that were ongoing as of 17 June 2025, broken down as follows:

- Number of Asian suspects
- Number of Black suspects
- Number of White suspects
- Number of Other Ethnicity suspects
- Number of suspects where ethnicity is Unknown

Please indicate whether suspects' ethnicity is recorded based on self-defined ethnicity, ethnic appearance data or other criteria.

3. Ethnicity of charged suspects in cases flagged as group based child sexual exploitation

What I'm requesting: Ethnicity data on suspects charged in cases flagged as "group based child sexual exploitation", or the closest equivalent term used by your police force, broken down as follows:

- Number of Asian suspects charged
- Number of Black suspects charged
- Number of White suspects charged
- Number of Other Ethnicity suspects charged
- Number of suspects charged where ethnicity is Unknown

Please indicate whether suspects' ethnicity is recorded based on self-defined ethnicity, ethnic appearance data or other criteria.

Timeframe: Suspects charged in the last three calendar years (January 2022 to January 2025). If that is not possible, please provide information on suspects charged in the last three financial years (March 2022 to March 2025). If that is not possible, please provide the most recent 12 months' of data that you can retrieve.

We received your request on 17/06/2025 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.

1. Ethnicity of suspects charged in cases of multi-offender child sexual offences

What I'm requesting: Ethnicity data on suspects charged with a sexual offence or offences against a victim or victim aged under 18 at the time of the offence, where the case involved two or more offenders or suspected offenders, broken down as follows:

- Number of Asian suspects charged
- Number of Black suspects charged
- Number of White suspects charged
- Number of Other Ethnicity suspects charged
- Number of suspects charged where ethnicity is Unknown – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 21475 Multi-Offender Child Sexual Offences Data'.**

Please indicate whether suspects' ethnicity is recorded based on self-defined ethnicity, ethnic appearance data or other criteria. – **Disclosed, self-defined ethnicity.**

Timeframe: Suspects charged in the last three calendar years (January 2022 to January 2025). If that is not possible, please provide information on suspects charged in the last three financial years (March 2022 to March 2025). If that is not possible, please provide the most recent 12 months' of data that you can retrieve. – **Disclosed, please be advised this data is from January 2022 to 17th June 2025 (the date we received your request).**

2. Ethnicity of suspects in ongoing cases of multi-offender child sexual offences

What I'm requesting: Ethnicity data on suspects in all cases involving two or more offenders or suspected offenders of sexual offences against a victim or victims aged under 18 at the time of the offence that were ongoing as of 17 June 2025, broken down as follows:

- Number of Asian suspects
- Number of Black suspects
- Number of White suspects
- Number of Other Ethnicity suspects
- Number of suspects where ethnicity is Unknown – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 21475 Multi-Offender Child Sexual Offences Data'.**

Please indicate whether suspects' ethnicity is recorded based on self-defined ethnicity, ethnic appearance data or other criteria. – **Disclosed, self-defined ethnicity.**

3. Ethnicity of charged suspects in cases flagged as group based child sexual exploitation

What I'm requesting: Ethnicity data on suspects charged in cases flagged as "group based child sexual exploitation", or the closest equivalent term used by your police force, broken down as follows:

- Number of Asian suspects charged
- Number of Black suspects charged
- Number of White suspects charged
- Number of Other Ethnicity suspects charged
- Number of suspects charged where ethnicity is Unknown – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 21475 Multi-Offender Child Sexual Offences Data'.**

Please indicate whether suspects' ethnicity is recorded based on self-defined ethnicity, ethnic appearance data or other criteria. – **Disclosed, self-defined ethnicity.**

Timeframe: Suspects charged in the last three calendar years (January 2022 to January 2025). If that is not possible, please provide information on suspects charged in the last three financial years (March 2022 to March 2025). If that is not possible, please provide the most recent 12 months' of data that you can retrieve. – **Disclosed, please be advised this data is from January 2022 to 17th June 2025 (the date we received your request).**

Please be advised the data does not match the national return which is being submitted following the publication of the Casey Report into Group Based Child Sexual Exploitation. This data has been extracted from our crime/occurrence recording database for reports of sexual offences against child victims and where there has been more than one suspect as we do not have a flag for group-based offences.

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 offences 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.

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