

11 July 2025

FOI Ref 21484

Request - You asked us the following:

Please provide the number of child sexual abuse (CSA) and child sexual exploitation (CSE) allegations/reports or cases that were referred to or assessed by any Independent Advisory Group (IAG) within your force for the purposes of advising on whether the case should proceed to charge and/or prosecution.

Please provide this information broken down by calendar year or financial year from 2000 to 2024 (or as far back as records permit).

If available, please also indicate:

1. Whether the IAG advice was formally recorded in case files or meeting minutes.
2. What proportion of CSA/CSE cases were referred to an IAG in each year.
3. The role or remit of IAGs in influencing charging/prosecution decisions in such cases.

If no such referrals have ever taken place, or if your force does not involve IAGs in such decisions, please confirm this.

We received your request on 19/06/2025 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

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

Staffordshire Police does not hold the requested information.

- Please provide the number of child sexual abuse (CSA) and child sexual exploitation (CSE) allegations/reports or cases that were referred to or assessed by any Independent Advisory Group (IAG) within your force for the purposes of advising on whether the case should proceed to charge and/or prosecution.
- Please provide this information broken down by calendar year or financial year from 2000 to 2024 (or as far back as records permit).
- If available, please also indicate:
 1. Whether the IAG advice was formally recorded in case files or meeting minutes. – **No information held.**
 2. What proportion of CSA/CSE cases were referred to an IAG in each year. – **No information held.**

- 3.The role or remit of IAGs in influencing charging/prosecution decisions in such cases. – **No information held.**
- If no such referrals have ever taken place, or if your force does not involve IAGs in such decisions, please confirm this.

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