

29 July 2025

FOI Ref 21502

Request - You asked us the following:

Please can you confirm the number of detectives employed by Staffordshire Police, broken down by rank, division (e.g. Major Crime Team) and their base location (e.g. Stafford, Cannock, Stoke etc).

Could you please provide this information for the years 2014-2024?

We received your request on 25/06/2025 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.

Please can you confirm the number of detectives employed by Staffordshire Police, broken down by rank, division (e.g. Major Crime Team) and their base location (e.g. Stafford, Cannock, Stoke etc).

Could you please provide this information for the years 2014-2024 – **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 21502 Detectives Employed Data'.**

Please be advised the following exemptions applies to the division and their base location only.

The following exemption has been applied:

In accordance with Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, this letter represents a refusal notice for this particular request.

- Section 31 (1) (a) (b) - Law Enforcement.

Information is exempt from disclosure under section 31 (1) (a) (b) where the release of Information would, or would likely to, prejudice the prevention and detection of crime and/ or the apprehension or prosecution of offenders. This exemption is qualified and prejudice-based and, as such, we are required to evidence the harm in disclosure and apply the public interest test.

Harm:

Any information disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act is not just released to the individual applicant but to the world at large. Staffordshire Police have a duty to prevent crime, apprehend and prosecute offenders whilst carrying out the administration of justice. Disclosure of detective's divisions and base location could pose a significant risk to present and future law enforcement capability, potentially placing both members of the public and Officers and staff at risk. Policing would be undermined as offenders would gain knowledge about how many detectives work in certain units. This knowledge could then therefore be used by the criminal fraternity to avoid detection or target their offending based upon the force's perceived capability within each unit. Disclosing this information would

lead to policing being undermined as it could be used by those wishing to cause disruption or harm to the communities we serve.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring disclosure under Section 31(1)(a)(b)

To disclose this information would adhere to the basic principle of being open and transparent, to disclose the division and their base location may promote transparency and public understanding of how law enforcement resources are structured and allocated. This would provide reassurance to the public that a capability exists to respond to deal with certain types of incidents/crimes where these kinds of roles are required.

Factors favouring non-disclosure under Section 31(1)(a)(b)

Disclosure of this information would undermine policing and have a negative effect on the prevention and detection of crime or the apprehension of offenders by exposing operational details. This information could be used by individuals or groups intent on evading detection or targeting specific teams or facilities based upon their perceived strengths or weaknesses. Disclosure of the requested information would reveal tactical resources available to the force and may therefore expose those units perceived as weaker to increased levels of offending and therefore undermine investigations. This would likely prejudice the prevention or detection of crime on a wider scale and endanger public safety.

Balance test

When considering whether disclosure is appropriate, we must weigh the strongest reason for disclosure against the strongest reasons for non-disclosure. In this case, whilst the factors favouring disclosure are important in that it would adhere to the basic principle of being open and transparent, we believe when weighed against the risk of disclosure undermining our ability to prevent and detect crime and hindering our ability to protect the public, then non-disclosure takes precedence.

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



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

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