

8 July 2025

FOI Ref 21514

**Request - You asked us the following:**

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am requesting the following information covering the period from July 2021 to the most recent full calendar year available:

1. The number of recorded homophobic hate crimes (i.e. those motivated by sexual orientation), broken down by:
  - Year
  - Offence type (e.g. harassment, assault, criminal damage)
2. The investigative outcomes for these offences for each year (e.g. charge, caution, no further action).
3. The number of non-crime hate incidents (NCHIs) recorded in the same period where the motivation was related to sexual orientation.
4. Any anonymised internal reports, summaries, or strategic documents produced since July 2021 that relate to homophobic hate crime trends, community safety, or policing response.
5. A copy of your current operational hate crime policy or guidance, specifically covering how homophobic hate crimes and NCHIs are defined, recorded, and investigated.

We received your request on 29/06/2025 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(2) In order to identify whether or not information is or isn't held would exceed the cost threshold in accordance with Section 12(2) of the Freedom of Information Act as in order to satisfy S1(1)(a) of the Act would exceed the cost threshold.

**The above information has been refused for the following reasons:**

There is no method by which we can easily identify or locate information that may be held within Staffordshire Police systems to answer question 4 of this request. The information you require is not stored in a way which allows for easy identification or retrieval, this type of information could be stored across multiple systems and folders as well as emails and notes kept by a number of individuals across the force. All systems, folders and personal files would need to be manually searched to see whether any internal reports, summaries or strategic documents are held which are relevant to this request.

To achieve this task would therefore exceed the 18-hour time and cost threshold of the Freedom of Information 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.

To assist in refining your request, data can be provided for questions 1, 2, 3 and 5.

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](mailto: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



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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