

16 July 2025

FOI Ref 21527

Request - You asked us the following:

This freedom of information request relates to Record of Taped Interview (ROTI) and Record of Video Interview (ROVI) transcripts of police-suspect interviews. Some of the questions were included in a 2022 FOI request on the same topic, and some new questions focus on the use of speech technologies. Given the rapid growth of Artificial Intelligence in the last three years, please could you provide answers to the following questions?

1. How many ROTI/ROVI transcribers are currently employed by your police force?
2. Are ROTI/ROVI transcribers employees of your police force or is the work outsourced to an external agency? If outsourced, which external agency is the work outsourced to?
3. What, if any, formal or informal guidance are ROTI/ROVI transcribers provided with for the purpose of producing transcripts?
4. Does your police force produce ROTI/ROVIs (MG15s) for Magistrates' Court cases, or only for Crown Court? If not, what record of the suspect interview is provided for Magistrates' Court cases?
5. Does your police force use, or are you planning to use, automatic transcription systems to produce ROTI/ROVI transcripts?
6. If the answer to question 5 was "yes" - does/will the use of automatic transcription involve an automatic transcription system developed specifically for your police force or an existing automatic transcription system from an external provider?
7. Does your police force use, or are you planning to use, automatic transcription systems to produce transcripts of other types of audio/video recordings (e.g. emergency calls, body-worn camera footage, witness interviews)?

We received your request on 02/07/2025 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.

- This freedom of information request relates to Record of Taped Interview (ROTI) and Record of Video Interview (ROVI) transcripts of police-suspect interviews. Some of the questions were included in a 2022 FOI request on the same topic, and some new questions focus on the use of speech technologies. Given the rapid growth of Artificial Intelligence in the last three years, please could you provide answers to the following questions?
- 1. How many ROTI/ROVI transcribers are currently employed by your police force? – **Disclosed, 7 members of staff – 6 posts (2 part time).**



- 2. Are ROTI/ROVI transcribers employees of your police force or is the work outsourced to an external agency? If outsourced, which external agency is the work outsourced to? – **Disclosed, employees are employed by Staffordshire Police.**
- 3. What, if any, formal or informal guidance are ROTI/ROVI transcribers provided with for the purpose of producing transcripts? – **Disclosed, we have a process guide for transcribers to use.**
- 4. Does your police force produce ROTI/ROVIs (MG15s) for Magistrates' Court cases, or only for Crown Court? If not, what record of the suspect interview is provided for Magistrates' Court cases? – **Disclosed, only Crown Court, we type Magistrates if CPS require this.**
- 5. Does your police force use, or are you planning to use, automatic transcription systems to produce ROTI/ROVI transcripts? – **Disclosed, yes we use automatic transcription.**
- 6. If the answer to question 5 was "yes" - does/will the use of automatic transcription involve an automatic transcription system developed specifically for your police force or an existing automatic transcription system from an external provider? – **Disclosed, we use TOEX for automatic transcription which is external.**
- 7. Does your police force use, or are you planning to use, automatic transcription systems to produce transcripts of other types of audio/video recordings (e.g. emergency calls, body-worn camera footage, witness interviews)? – **Disclosed, yes we do use this.**

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.

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.

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