

18 July 2025

FOI Ref 21573

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

I am seeking the information you hold associated with the below message sent by your constabulary to the NPCC:

The exchanges with Surrey Police

The questions asked of other constabularies & their responses

The calculation undertaken showing that the costs are not covered by the fees presented

Your exchanges with the NPCC

Your consideration of RoA - right of access - and any exchanges on this insofar as disclosure of police reports is concerned.

22/05/2023 @ 09:07

Can you help us please with some steer/advice.

Surrey raised an issue that since the new ABI-NPCC agreement (attached) they are getting an increase in RoA\* requests due to their compliance with the agreement in refusing requests from those who do not meet its expectations. It has prompted more discussion as this is work that has just been passed into my team and we have been working through the processes available, asking questions from other forces and many realising that their processes need reviewing. We are all now concerned by doing such it will push requests to RoA.

So based upon this new ABI-NPCC we have worked out that requests fall as on the attached word doc (ABI-NPCC workflows), it is the requests in red/box 4 that are the ones we are all becoming a bit stuck on. I have found a NPCC Disclosure policy (attached), which is not dated and no longer available on the College website & it alludes that the disclosures should be done but does not give a defined lawful basis. Whilst we can charge the charges do not now cover the costs to forces and certainly in Staffs we are looking at only do those disclosures that we have an obligation to do.

Any thoughts would be gratefully received as what none of us want to do is to refuse to do work that is not covered by the ABI-NPCC or by civil proceedings and then it results in being pushed to RoA.

I have copied below what is on the meeting notes as the query I originally received.

Hope all this makes sense but the general consensus is we could do with some NPCC help.

Many thanks in advance

Best wishes

\*\*S40(2)\*\*

We received your request on 15/07/2025 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 14(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the request is vexatious.

We are not providing the information you have requested as we have determined that your request is vexatious under Section 14(1) Vexatious Requests.

The Information Commissioner's guidance on the subject makes it clear that Section 14(1) may be applied where a request, or its impact on a public authority, cannot be justified.

The key question to consider is whether the request is likely to cause a disproportionate or unjustified level of disruption, irritation or distress based on the impact of the authority, weighed against any evidence about the purpose and value of the request. We are also entitled to consider the context and history of the request where it is relevant.

Staffordshire Police is treating this request as vexatious because to provide a response to questions already submitted on a previous FOI request that have been responded to, creating duplicate requests on the same topic, will cause an unjustified and disproportionate burden on the force. This is because there have been 9 Freedom of Information requests and Internal Review requests relating to the topic of disclosure of crime reports to other than ABI members, stemming from the applicant's dissatisfaction with Staffordshire Police's disclosure and access regimes. In addition, there has been a pattern of overlapping and frequent requests from the applicant on this subject, characterised by additional emails and queries often being submitted before we have had the opportunity to respond to the original request. This has become burdensome to the force and is detracting from our ability to respond to other requesters. The lengthy emails and wording of the applicant's requests have been difficult to navigate, and there has been a bombardment of correspondence on the same or similar topics that other departments within Staffordshire Police are receiving via email.

For the above reasons, we have therefore concluded that your request is vexatious within the terms of Section 14(1) of the Act and we will not be servicing the request. Moreover, please be advised that any further similar requests will also be treated as vexatious and will not receive a response.

Please be advised that all Freedom of Information request responses are published on the Staffordshire Police website although personal details are not included.

**Next steps**

As defined above, multiple internal reviews upon this topic have already been conducted by the Central Disclosure Unit Management Team.

Therefore, if you are not content, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner to investigate. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:



STAFFORDSHIRE  
**POLICE**

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-eircomplaints/>

This will be our final correspondence upon this subject.

Freedom of Information Team/Central Disclosure Unit Management Team  
Central Disclosure Unit