

18 July 2025

FOI Ref 21588

Request - You asked us the following:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I hereby request disclosure of the following information relating to Crime Reference Number [REDACTED], which was recorded by Staffordshire Police on 19 July 2023, involving allegations of fraud, false accounting, and the use of false instruments by employees and legal representatives of [REDACTED] and associated entities:

Request

1. All internal correspondence (emails, memos, or decision logs) relating to the review, allocation, handling, suspension, referral, or closure of CRN [REDACTED] between 19 July 2023 and 17 July 2025.
2. The names and ranks (or job titles) of all officers or civilian employees involved in the decision to:
 - o Mark the case for no further action;
 - o Refer the case to Action Fraud;
 - o Decline to investigate the matter substantively.
- 3.
4. The legal basis recorded for closing or transferring the investigation (e.g., policy guidance, CPS direction, or internal threshold).
5. Confirmation of whether any referral to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) was made in relation to this crime reference number — and if so, the date, office, and outcome of that referral.
6. A copy of any final case closure report, assessment document, or rationale signed off by a supervising officer or departmental head.
7. Confirmation of any correspondence with Action Fraud or the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) relating to this case, including referral outcome, crime classification or “no further action” determinations.

Format

I request that this information be provided in electronic format (PDF or email attachments).

Public Interest

This request is made in the public interest and pertains to concerns that economic crime, including fraud by false representation, VAT fraud, and false accounting, has not been lawfully or properly investigated. These crimes have a clear territorial link to Burton-on-Trent and involve documentary evidence already in the hands of Staffordshire Police.

If this request is likely to exceed the statutory cost limit, please advise on how it may be narrowed. Otherwise, I look forward to your response within 20 working days, in line with the Act.

We received your request on 17/07/2025 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

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

Staffordshire Police can neither confirm or deny that it holds the information you requested as it believes that the duty under s1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the duty to confirm whether the public authority holds information of the specified description) does not apply.

The following exemptions have 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 40(5) Personal Information**

Section 40(5) is an absolute exemption which means that there is no need to quantify the harm that may arise from the disclosure; neither is it subject to a public interest test.

To release personal or third-party information held by Staffordshire Police, would breach the data protection principles; namely –

- Data is lawfully and fairly processed.
- Processed in line with an individual's rights.
- Data is secure.

Personal and third-party information cannot be released under the Freedom of Information Act.

Disclosure under Freedom of Information is a release of information to the world in general and not an individual applicant.

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