

24 July 2025

FOI Ref 21609

Request - You asked us the following:

I am writing under the Freedom of Information act to request data held on crimes investigated by your force which were flagged as Domestic Abuse (DA) related, their recorded outcome, and if a named suspect's occupation is 'police officer' or related role*, from 1 January 2021 to 30 April 2025.

Specifically, I request the following information, broken down by month and outcome. Please break down outcomes by HOCR type i.e. Type 1 Charged/Summonsed, Type 2 Youth Caution, etc.

If for whatever reason your systems do not allow the retrieval of this data for the whole period, or doing so would exceed cost limitations, please limit your response to a reasonable time frame by starting with a more recent month.

If summarising totals by month is considered too detailed due to small numbers, please break down by year or just the overall total before considering suppressing figures.

Please send the response in an Excel spreadsheet.

N.b. this request refers to crime investigations, not professional standards/misconduct.

* My understanding is that occupation recording is not standardised, therefore I request that you include job titles like 'police officer' / 'serving officer' / 'special constable' / specific job titles if listed i.e. 'police constable' or 'police sergeant' – but do not include civilian titles like 'police staff' or PCSO. I also understand that occupation may not always be recorded (see Q3).

Q1) All recorded crime investigations flagged as DA, total broken down by month and outcome type, 2021 to end of April 2025. Grouped by date investigation was opened.

Month	Outcome type 1	Outcome Type 2	...etc	Ongoing/live	Total
-------	----------------	----------------	--------	--------------	-------

Q2) Similarly, but for only those investigations where a named suspect has a recorded occupation of police officer* (see definition above), all recorded crime investigations flagged as DA, total broken down by month and outcome type, 2021 to end of April 2025. Grouped by date investigation was opened.

Month	Outcome type 1	Outcome Type 2	...etc	Ongoing/live	Total
-------	----------------	----------------	--------	--------------	-------

Q3) If possible and not exceeding cost limitations please also indicate, of the total number of investigations in Q1, ...

- The number which have at least one named suspect.
- The proportion of linked suspects who have any occupation recorded.

If it is not possible for another reason to provide the information requested, please provide advice and assistance as to how I can refine my request.

We received your request on 22/07/2025 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 12(1) where the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit.
Section 12(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the prescribed limit'.

The above information has been withheld for the following reasons:

There is no method by which we can readily retrieve information from our systems to answer this request. For the time period requested, there have been in excess of 85,000 occurrences of crimes with a domestic abuse qualifier added to the offence record. In order to retrieve the occupation of each suspect/offender, if recorded, the record for each offence would require manual review. To extract this data would therefore require a very labour-intensive manual trawl through each record.

From dip sampling, it has been estimated that it would take approximately 3 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to over 4,250 hours. 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.

If your request was amended, Staffordshire Police would be able to provide the number of crimes with a domestic abuse qualifier added, broken down by month/year and outcome.

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