

28 July 2025

FOI Ref 21621

Request - You asked us the following:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am writing to request any information held regarding a violent incident that allegedly occurred in the town of Cannock between 2022 and 2024 (inclusive), involving the use of a machete or similar bladed weapon.

Specifically, I am seeking information on an incident where two or more groups-allegedly composed of asylum seekers or residents from local hotels housing asylum seekers-were reported to have assaulted one another, potentially with machetes or other weapons.

Please provide, where available:

1. The date and location of the incident(s),
2. A summary of the reported events,
3. The number of individuals involved,
4. Any arrests made or charges filed,
5. Whether the individuals involved were asylum seekers or housed in hotels under Home Office arrangements.

We received your request on 23/07/2025 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

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

Staffordshire Police does not hold the requested information.

Specifically, I am seeking information on an incident where two or more groups-allegedly composed of asylum seekers or residents from local hotels housing asylum seekers-were reported to have assaulted one another, potentially with machetes or other weapons. Please provide, where available:

- 1. The date and location of the incident(s), - **No information held.**
- 2. A summary of the reported events, - **No information held.**

- 3. The number of individuals involved, - **No information held.**
- 4. Any arrests made or charges filed, - **No information held.**
- 5. Whether the individuals involved were asylum seekers or housed in hotels under Home Office arrangements. - **No information held.**

Please note that our searches consisted of a summary search for the terms “machetes”, “machete” and “asylum”. The accuracy and reliability of these searches cannot be guaranteed as only the MO / summary field and incident log of the report is searched. If this term is mentioned elsewhere (i.e. within the crime report, statements etc) these will not be returned in the results. Additionally, if the term is misspelt within the MO / summary field or incident log, this will not be returned. To provide accurate results would require manually interrogating each crime within the specified timeframe to establish its relevance to your request.

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



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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