

29 July 2025

FOI Ref 21644

Request - You asked us the following:

I am writing under the Freedom of Information Act (2000), seeking data relating to items or assets that have been confiscated, seized, or otherwise removed from serving police officers, PCSOs, or police staff due to breaches of policy, criminal investigations, or misconduct proceedings.

Specifically, please provide the following information:

1. Statistics by year (for calendar years 2021, '22, '23, '24, and '25) on the number of items confiscated, broken down by category where recorded, e.g.:
 - o Weapons (firearms, knives, batons, etc.)
 - o Controlled drugs or substances
 - o Cash (including unexplained/unauthorised sums)
 - o Cryptocurrency (provide an estimated value)
 - o Digital assets (e.g., laptops, mobile phones, storage devices)
 - o Other contraband or prohibited property
2. For each category, please provide (where recorded):
 - o The total number of incidents per year.
 - o The type of item(s) confiscated (broad description only).
 - o Whether confiscation occurred as part of internal disciplinary investigations or criminal investigations.
3. Please confirm whether your force maintains a central record or database of such confiscations (e.g., through the Professional Standards Department or Property/Evidence Unit), and if so, what datasets are recorded (e.g., item type, value, reason for seizure, outcome).

We received your request on 27/07/2025 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.

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 1. Statistics by year (for calendar years 2021, '22, '23, '24, and '25) on the number of items confiscated, broken down by category where recorded, e.g.:
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 - Digital assets (e.g., laptops, mobile phones, storage devices)
 - Other contraband or prohibited property – **No information held.**



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- 2. For each category, please provide (where recorded):
 - The total number of incidents per year.
 - The type of item(s) confiscated (broad description only).
 - Whether confiscation occurred as part of internal disciplinary investigations or criminal investigations.
- 3. Please confirm whether your force maintains a central record or database of such confiscations (e.g., through the Professional Standards Department or Property/Evidence Unit), and if so, what datasets are recorded (e.g., item type, value, reason for seizure, outcome). – **No information held.**

Please note that the FOI Act 2000 only extends to requests for recorded information. It does not require public authorities to create information to answer questions generally; only if the information is already held in recorded form. The Act does not extend to requests for information about policies or their implementation, or the merits or demerits of any proposal or action - unless, of course, the answer to any such request is already held in recorded form.

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.

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.



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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