

30 June 2025

FOI Ref 21506

Request - You asked us the following:

Please provide:

- Your policies on responding to child welfare reports-Section-47 referrals, social services involvement, duty to consult multi-agency partners
- Guidance/training on interviewing neurodivergent children, mental health crises, and trauma-informed practice
- Protocols around anonymous third-party reports and how you verify them before action
- Policies on surveillance of parents, including -unmarked car- activity and traffic enforcement
- Records of use and disclosure of personal data relating to families connected to public legal action V. Legal Grounds
- Data Protection Act 2018 / UK GDPR - for SAR information
- PACE Code C, Children Act 1989 Section 47 - for unlawful child interview
- Equality Act 2010 - for failure to adjust for disability
- HRA Article 8 - breach of private and family life
- Potential claim under Protection from Harassment and malicious profiling

We received your request on 25/06/2025 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

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

Staffordshire Police holds some of the requested information.

- - Your policies on responding to child welfare reports-Section-47 referrals, social services involvement, duty to consult multi-agency partners - **Withheld (section 21), please see below.**
- - Guidance/training on interviewing neurodivergent children, mental health crises, and trauma-informed practice - **Withheld (section 21), please see below.**



- - Protocols around anonymous third-party reports and how you verify them before action – **No information held. Staffordshire does not have a protocol that addresses this specific issue.**
- - Policies on surveillance of parents, including -unmarked car- activity and traffic enforcement - **Withheld (section 21), please see below.**
- Records of use and disclosure of personal data relating to families connected to public legal action V. Legal Grounds - **Withheld (section 21), please see below.**
- - Data Protection Act 2018 / UK GDPR - for SAR information
This is not a valid request. Please note that the FOI Act 2000 only extends to requests for recorded information.
- - PACE Code C, Children Act 1989 Section 47 - for unlawful child interview
This is not a valid request. Please note that the FOI Act 2000 only extends to requests for recorded information.
- - Equality Act 2010 - for failure to adjust for disability
This is not a valid request. Please note that the FOI Act 2000 only extends to requests for recorded information.
- - HRA Article 8 - breach of private and family life
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- - Potential claim under Protection from Harassment and malicious profiling
This is not a valid request. Please note that the FOI Act 2000 only extends to requests for recorded information.

The following exemption has 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 21(1) - Information reasonably accessible by other means.

Section 21 is an absolute, class-based exemption and as such there is no requirement to quantify the harm that may arise from the disclosure, nor is there a requirement to perform a Public Interest Test.

Advice and assistance

In order to comply with our obligations under Section 16 of the Act, the obligation to provide advice and assistance, please find below links to the information requested.

- **Q1 - Staffordshire Police adhere to the National guidance:**
[Working together to safeguard children - GOV.UK](#)



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- **Q2 - Staffordshire Police adhere to the National guidance:**
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/achieving-best-evidence-in-criminal-proceedings>
- **Q4 - Staffordshire Police adhere to the Regulation of Investigatory Powers (RIPA) Act 2000:**
[RIPA codes - GOV.UK](#)
- **Q5 – We refer you to Staffordshire Police’s Privacy Notice:**
[Privacy notice | Staffordshire Police](#)

Please note that we have responded to the last 5 questions in the manner that we have because you do not appear go be asking for recorded information that may or may not be held by Staffordshire Police. It is not clear what information you require.

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