

5 March 2025

FOI Ref 17864

Request - You asked us the following:

I would like to request the following information under the FOI Act.

Please provide:

1) A list of the names of all databases your police force has access to in which details of incidents involving the "use of force" by officers are captured.

Please include in this list:

1. Any databases with broader purposes but in which the above details are also recorded.
2. The names of all relevant databases from 2019 to date. If a database is no longer in use, please specify this.
- 2) For each of the databases listed in point 1, please provide a list of the purposes and functions of each specific one.
- 3) For each of the databases named in response to point 1, please provide:
 1. A list of the column headings contained in this database and, if applicable, row headings. Please provide an explanation of what each column and row heading means in plain English and please explain any and all acronyms and technical terms.
 2. A list of what the options are for entering data under each specific column heading and/or row heading in this database. If there is a drop-down list, please specify all the drop-down options available. Please provide an explanation of what each drop-down option means in plain English and please explain any and all acronyms or technical terms.

We received your request on 21/02/2025 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.

I would like to request the following information under the FOI Act.

Please provide:

- 1) A list of the names of all databases your police force has access to in which details of incidents involving the "use of force" by officers are captured.

Please include in this list:

- 1. Any databases with broader purposes but in which the above details are also recorded.
- 2. The names of all relevant databases from 2019 to date. If a database is no longer in use, please specify this.

Disclosed, from May 2020 our Use of Force data has been recorded in our record management system called NicheRMS, prior to this it was recorded using Survey Monkey.

- 2) For each of the databases listed in point 1, please provide a list of the purposes and functions of each specific one.

Disclosed, no information held

- 3) For each of the databases named in response to point 1, please provide:
 1. A list of the column headings contained in this database and, if applicable, row headings. Please provide an explanation of what each column and row heading mean in plain English and please explain any and all acronyms and technical terms. – **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 17864 Use of Force Databases data'.**

Please note, we do not hold data for what the 'row heading mean (sic) in plain English and all acronyms and technical terms'.

2. A list of what the options are for entering data under each specific column heading and/or row heading in this database. If there is a drop-down list, please specify all the drop-down options available. Please provide an explanation of what each drop-down option means in plain English and please explain any and all acronyms or technical terms. – **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 17864 Use of Force Databases data'.**

Please note, we do not hold data for 'please provide an explanation of what each drop-down option means in plain English and please explain any and all acronyms or technical terms'

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.

I have also attached the Use of force guidance for Staffordshire and force statistics ,England and Wales – GOV.UK and which is available below:

[Use of force | Staffordshire Police.](#)
[Police use of force statistics - GOV.UK](#)

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.

As a consequence, care should be taken in the interpretation and presentation of this data, so as to not misrepresent the whole or any part of the data disclosed.

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



STAFFORDSHIRE
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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