

4 March 2025

FOI Ref 17887

Request - You asked us the following:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding crimes reported to your officers where the platform OnlyFans was mentioned and or recorded in the reporting of the crime.

I would be grateful if you could provide the following information for the period 1st January 2020 to 31 December 2024.

1. Fraud/Financial Crimes:

The number of reported crimes involving fraud, blackmail, or financial scams/crimes where OnlyFans was mentioned.

The number of reports specifically involving:

- * Subscription fraud.
- * Identity theft.
- * Chargeback fraud.

Please provide any information held by your officers on:

- * The total financial losses reported in fraud cases involving OnlyFans.
- * The average financial loss per case.
- * The number of cases resulting in arrests or prosecutions.

2. Coercion & Exploitation

* The number of reports mentioning controlling or coercive behaviour (as defined under Section 76 of the Serious Crime Act 2015) involving OnlyFans.

* The number of Modern Slavery Act offences recorded where victims were forced to create content on OnlyFans.

* The number of reports involving:

- o Revenge porn.
- o Stalking.
- o Harassment.
- o Threats against OnlyFans creators.

Please break down data (where available) into the following criteria:

- * The demographics of victims (e.g., age, gender) where available.
- * The number of cases involving organized crime groups.
- * The number of cases resulting in safeguarding interventions.



3. Underage Content & Exploitation

- * The number of child exploitation or grooming-related crimes recorded where OnlyFans was mentioned.
- * The number of reports where minors were found to be using or appearing on OnlyFans.
- * The age range of minors involved.
- * The number of cases involving parental or guardian coercion.
- * The number of cases involving 3rd part coercion (other than a parent).
- * The number of cases resulting in prosecutions under the Protection of Children Act 1978.

If possible, I would be grateful if you could also provide anonymised summaries of notable cases involving OnlyFans. I would also welcome any contextual information or trends (e.g., whether cases are increasing or decreasing over time) that could be shared from your records.

I look forward to your response within the statutory 20-working-day timeframe. If any of this information is exempt from disclosure, I would appreciate guidance on how this request could be refined to fall within the scope of the Freedom of Information Act. If some elements exceed the cost/time limit, please prioritise providing publicly available aggregated data or summary reports.

Please feel free to contact me if any clarification is required

We received your request on 26/02/2024 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

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

Staffordshire Police holds/does not hold the requested information.

1. Fraud/Financial Crimes:

- The number of reported crimes involving fraud, blackmail, or financial scams/crimes where OnlyFans was mentioned. – **Partially disclosed, please see accompanying file titled 'FOI 17887 OnlyFans Crimes Data.PDF'.**
- The number of reports specifically involving:
 - * Subscription fraud.
 - * Identity theft.
 - * Chargeback fraud. – **No information held.**
- Please provide any information held by your officers on:
 - * The total financial losses reported in fraud cases involving OnlyFans.
 - * The average financial loss per case.
 - * The number of cases resulting in arrests or prosecutions. – **No information held.**

2. Coercion & Exploitation

- The number of reports mentioning controlling or coercive behaviour (as defined under Section 76 of the Serious Crime Act 2015) involving OnlyFans. – **No information held.**



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- The number of Modern Slavery Act offences recorded where victims were forced to create content on OnlyFans. – **No information held.**
- The number of reports involving:
 - o Revenge porn.
 - o Stalking.
 - o Harassment.
 - o Threats against OnlyFans creators. – **Disclosed, please see accompanying file titled 'FOI 17887 OnlyFans Crimes Data.PDF'.**
- Please break down data (where available) into the following criteria:
The demographics of victims (e.g., age, gender) where available. – **Disclosed, please see accompanying file titled 'FOI 17887 OnlyFans Crimes Data.PDF'.**
- The number of cases involving organized crime groups. – **No information held.**
- The number of cases resulting in safeguarding interventions. – **Disclosed, please see accompanying file titled 'FOI 17887 OnlyFans Crimes Data.PDF'.**

3. Underage Content & Exploitation

- The number of child exploitation or grooming-related crimes recorded where OnlyFans was mentioned. – **No information held.**
- The number of reports where minors were found to be using or appearing on OnlyFans. – **Disclosed, please see accompanying file titled 'FOI 17887 OnlyFans Crimes Data.PDF'.**
- The age range of minors involved. – **Disclosed, please see accompanying file titled 'FOI 17887 OnlyFans Crimes Data.PDF'.**
- The number of cases involving parental or guardian coercion. – **No information held.**
- The number of cases involving 3rd part coercion (other than a parent). – **No information held.**
- The number of cases resulting in prosecutions under the Protection of Children Act 1978. – **No information held.**
- If possible, I would be grateful if you could also provide anonymised summaries of notable cases involving OnlyFans. – **Partially disclosed, please see accompanying file titled 'FOI 17887 OnlyFans Crimes Data.PDF'.**
- I would also welcome any contextual information or trends (e.g., whether cases are increasing or decreasing over time) that could be shared from your records. – **No information held.**

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 parts of this particular request.

- Section 40(2) Personal Information

Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption which means that there is no need to quantify the harm that may arise from the disclosure; neither is it subject to a public interest test.

To release personal or third-party information held by Staffordshire Police, would breach the data protection principles; namely –

- Data is lawfully and fairly processed.
- Processed in line with an individual's rights.
- Data is secure.

Personal and third-party information cannot be released under the Freedom of Information Act.

Disclosure under Freedom of Information is a release of information to the world in general and not an individual applicant.

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. Additional offences/incidents may have been recorded during these timescales but are awaiting finalisation and input onto these systems and would not be present within this dataset.

Every effort is made to ensure that the data presented is accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that this has been extracted from multiple sources, developed for specific policing purposes, for which data extraction methods have not been specifically designed to directly correlate with the terminology of this request. Therefore, the data presented is subject to the inaccuracies and idiosyncrasies inherent in any large-scale recording system.

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.

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.

With regards to part 1 of this request Staffordshire Police is unable to provide data regarding fraud offences as the majority of these are now recorded by Action Fraud. Action Fraud is the national centre responsible for receiving, recording and disseminating reports of fraud.

The Action Fraud website is:

<http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>

Please be advised that all Freedom of Information request responses are published on the Staffordshire Police website although personal details are not included.



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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



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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