

6 March 2025

FOI Ref 17911

Request - You asked us the following:

I am requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding police investigations into unregulated immigration advice or fraudulent immigration services.

Specifically, please provide the following data for the past four financial years (2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24, up to February 2025):

1. The number of reports or complaints received related to unregulated immigration advice or fraudulent immigration services.
2. The number of investigations initiated by Staffordshire Police related to these offences.
3. The number of arrests made in connection with unregulated immigration advice or fraudulent immigration services.
4. A breakdown of offences charged (e.g., under the Fraud Act 2006, Immigration and Asylum Act 1999).

If possible within cost limits, I would appreciate this data in an Excel spreadsheet format. If this request exceeds the cost threshold under Section 12 of the FOI Act, please advise on how it may be refined.

Clarification received from applicant 06/03/2025

I am writing to provide additional information regarding my FOI request with reference FOI 17911 received by Staffordshire police on 3 March 2025.

To clarify, by "unregulated immigration advice," I am referring to Sections 84 and 92B, along with all their subsections, under Part V of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 (relating to immigration advisers and service providers).

This information may be searchable under the following crime categories:

- 078/05 – Providing immigration advice or services in contravention of Section 79 (provision of immigration services) or of a restraining order.
- 078/07 – Obtaining benefits or advantages for oneself or others through dishonest representations.

Please let me know if further clarification is required as per Section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I would be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of this request and provide a reference number.

We received your request on 03/03/2025 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 am requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding police investigations into unregulated immigration advice or fraudulent immigration services.
- Specifically, please provide the following data for the past four financial years (2021/22, 2022/23, 2023/24, up to February 2025):
 1. The number of reports or complaints received related to unregulated immigration advice or fraudulent immigration services. – **No information held.**
 2. The number of investigations initiated by Staffordshire Police related to these offences. – **No information held.**
 3. The number of arrests made in connection with unregulated immigration advice or fraudulent immigration services. – **No information held.**
 4. A breakdown of offences charged (e.g., under the Fraud Act 2006, Immigration and Asylum Act 1999). – **No information held.**

Clarification received from applicant 06/03/2025

I am writing to provide additional information regarding my FOI request with reference FOI 17911 received by Staffordshire police on 3 March 2025.

To clarify, by "unregulated immigration advice," I am referring to Sections 84 and 92B, along with all their subsections, under Part V of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 (relating to immigration advisers and service providers).

This information may be searchable under the following crime categories:

078/05 – Providing immigration advice or services in contravention of Section 79 (provision of immigration services) or of a restraining order.

078/07 – Obtaining benefits or advantages for oneself or others through dishonest representations. – **Disclosed, nil.**

Please be advised, a search has been created from our crime/occurrence recording database from 31/03/2021 to 28/02/2025 for the Home Office Codes 078/05 and 078/07, which has returned nil results.

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 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.

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



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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