

17 March 2025

FOI Ref 17965

Request - You asked us the following:

1. How many reports of illegal car meets were made between:

January 2024 - January 2025

January 2023 - January 2024

January 2022 - January 2023

January 2021 - January 2022

January 2020 - January 2021

2. Of these reports how many people were arrested or fined in connection with these car meet-ups?

January 2024 - January 2025

January 2023 - January 2024

January 2022 - January 2023

January 2021 - January 2022

January 2020 - January 2021

3. Please provide a breakdown of where illegal car meet-ups are most commonly reported, including specific cities, towns, or roadways.

We received your request on 14/03/2025 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

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

In accordance with Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, this letter represents a refusal notice for this particular request.

The following exemption has been applied:

- Section 12(1) where the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit. Section 12(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the prescribed limit'.



The above information has been withheld for the following reasons:

There is no method by which we can readily retrieve information from our systems to answer this request. Within our incident recording system, there is no field for recording unauthorised car meets. Therefore, for the time period requested, there have been 64,540 incidents reported which may relate to an unauthorised car meet. In order to determine whether the incident reported involved an authorised car meet, the record for each incident would require manual review. In addition, as an arrest could have been made for any reason at an unauthorised car meet, the record for each arrest carried out within the time period requested would require manual review which equates to over 80,970 arrests to review.

From dip sampling, it has been estimated that it would take approximately 3 minutes to review each incident report, 3 minutes to review each arrest record to answer this request, this would equate to over 7,275 hours. To achieve this task would therefore exceed the 18-hour time and cost threshold of the Freedom of Information Act by some considerable margin.

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.

Unfortunately, we cannot suggest a way in which your request could be simplified or pared down in order to bring it within the confines of the time and cost threshold.

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



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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
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