

23 April 2025

FOI Ref 21186

Request - You asked us the following:

You have stated 'we do not have an information sharing agreement with yourselves' suggesting that, at the very least there are agreements.

You now appear to be saying that you have no agreement with an insurer, or so 'any insurance company are not included in this for the control room' appears to convey.

Why raise the issue of an agreement?

You now tell me that my company will have its own policy - I am unsure from whom you have obtained this, please advise.

I again ask; to what 'correct channels' are you referring, to what fee? I remind you of my reference to Appendix E of the MoU.

As for sharing agreements and your non-disclosure position, I am surprised you are so secretive. I now formally request this information; who do you have 'sharing agreements' with, please provide copies of these. Please consider this a Freedom of Information Act request.

We received your request on 04/04/2025 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 14(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the request is vexatious.

We are not providing the information you have requested as we have determined that your request is vexatious under Section 14(1) Vexatious Requests.

The Information Commissioner's guidance on the subject makes it clear that Section 14(1) may be applied where a request, or its impact on a public authority, cannot be justified.

The key question to consider is whether the request is likely to cause a disproportionate or unjustified level of disruption, irritation or distress based on the impact of the authority, weighed against any evidence about the purpose and value of the request. We are also entitled to consider the context and history of the request where it is relevant.



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Staffordshire Police is treating this request as vexatious because to provide a response to questions already submitted on a previous FOI request that have been responded to, creating duplicate requests on the same topic, will cause an unjustified and disproportionate burden on the force. This is because there have been 7 Freedom of Information requests and Internal Review requests relating to the topic of disclosure of crime reports to other than ABI members, stemming from the applicant's dissatisfaction with Staffordshire Police's disclosure and access regimes. In addition, there has been a pattern of overlapping and frequent requests from the applicant on this subject, characterised by additional emails and queries often being submitted before we have had the opportunity to respond to the original request. This has become burdensome to the force and is detracting from our ability to respond to other requesters. The lengthy emails and wording of the applicant's requests have been difficult to navigate, and there has been a bombardment of correspondence on the same or similar topics that other departments within Staffordshire Police are receiving via email.

For the above reasons, we have therefore concluded that your request is vexatious within the terms of Section 14(1) of the Act and we will not be servicing the request. Moreover, please be advised that any further similar requests will also be treated as vexatious and will not receive a response.

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

Next steps

As defined above, multiple internal reviews upon this topic have already been conducted by the Central Disclosure Unit Management Team.

Therefore, if you are not content, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner to investigate. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

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-eircomplaints/>

This will be our final correspondence upon this subject.

Freedom of Information Team/Central Disclosure Unit Management Team
Central Disclosure Unit