



STAFFORDSHIRE  
**POLICE**

**Our Ref:** FOI 21255  
**Your Ref:** FOI 21185

**Date:** 23 April 2025

### **Internal Review**

**Re: Request for internal review of response to application for information under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.**

**We refer to the above request which was received on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025 (ref 21185) and was expressed in the following terms:**

*Since the last NPCC/ABI MoU (mid 2022\*) please provide the following information you possess about:*

- 1. the disclosure of crime reports to other than ABI members;*
- 3. your policy/ arrangements for disclosure of crime reports to other than ABI members*
- 4. any planned changes/attention to disclosure*

**Further to the above, we also note the following comments made within your request for Internal Review.**

*I am writing to request an internal review of Staffordshire Police's handling of my FOI request 'Disclosure of Crime Reports to Non-ABI Members'.*

*It is evident you can amend and reissue a response.*

*May I remind you that the FOI Act requires an 'applicant blind' approach, which is to say that it embodies the principle that information is available to anyone and requests must be assessed without consideration of who made them. Contrary to the ICO's guidance (see <https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1198/dealing-with-vexatious-requests.pdf>), your decision has been influenced by your knowledge or view of me as the requester, rather than an assessment of the request in isolation. For that reason I am asking you to review your response and, if the exemption is upheld, to provide an assessment which does not take your knowledge of the requester into consideration.*

*Please note that this request is one crucial part of a systematic piece of research that will enable me to view data from across several authorities, thus allowing a wider picture to be understood. ICO guidance indicates that this is a legitimate use of the FOI Act (<https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1198/dealing-with-vexatious-requests.pdf>).*

*Indeed, I am concerned Staffordshire police has withheld information. It is apparent the issue has caused your constabulary particular problems - highlighted to the ICO, about which I became aware, but also with the NPCC. It transpires you had raised the matter with the NPCC - exchanges which appear to fall to my previous request but in respect of which I appear to be without the NPCC information - referred to here:*

<https://carcrime.uk/npcc-disclosure-of-police-reports-exchanges-2022-2023/>

*Comments such as 'Whilst we can charge the charges do not now cover the costs to forces and certainly in Staffs we are looking at only do those disclosures that we have an obligation to do' have not previously been disclosed. The statement suggests interaction with other constabularies about which information has not been forthcoming from Staffs. Also absent is the assistance you anticipated from the NPCC having written to the NPCC*

*'We are waiting for further assistance from NPCC. Here at Staffs we are not actually dealing with any insurance requests at the moment simply due to capacity and we are considering asking for a sign off from our DCC that we no longer do them at all, however we have to consider the risks around this'.*

*I would like to point out that although I have previously made requests for similar information, I am now requesting something demonstrably different - relates to more recent/subsequent information.*

*I would like to ask you to reassess my request in light of the fact that the information I have requested would have a serious purpose and value (as per the ICO guidance at <https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1198/dealing-with-vexatious-requests.pdf>).*

*I assure you that my request was not intended to be vexatious.*

### **Our Response**

**We have reviewed our handling of your request for information under the Freedom of Information provision referenced above and we are of the opinion that the application of the exemption outlined within the response letter was fully justified and that the explanation and rationale for the application of it was conveyed clearly and unequivocally.**

**Please note that it is the request that is being treated as vexatious, not you as an individual.**

Please be advised that all FOI requests and response letters are published on the Staffordshire Police website although personal details are not included.

If you are not content with the outcome of the review, 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-eir-complaints/>

Central Disclosure Unit Management Team  
Central Disclosure Unit  
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