

6 May 2025

FOI Ref 21180

Request - You asked us the following:

This is a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please share the following information regarding police pursuits:

Q1. How many pursuit-related fatalities occurred between 1 January 2014 and 31 December 2024? Please share both the total number of fatalities in the 10-year period and the number of fatalities per calendar year.

Q2. How many pursuit-related injuries occurred between 1 January 2014 and 31 December 2024? Please share both the total number of injuries in the 10-year period and the number of injuries per calendar year.

Q3. Please share all completed Pursuit Management Debrief Return documents for incidents which took place between 1 January 2014 and 31 December 2024.

Please note, I am requesting all Pursuit Management Debrief Return documents in a 10-year period, instead of Pursuit Management Debrief Return documents only related to a pursuit.

By "Pursuit Management Debrief Return documents" I am referring to the document completed after a pursuit to record and analyse the pursuit. Surrey and Sussex Police Forces call these documents "Pursuit Management Debrief Return forms" (as per Pursuit Policy 6.2), but your force may use another term.

I understand these may be redacted for personal information but I ask that you redact only exempted information and justify the use of those exemptions. I also kindly remind you that the time taken for redactions does not usually contribute towards the cost cap under FOI.

If this request is too wide or unclear, I would be grateful if you could contact me as soon as possible, as I understand that under the Act you are required to advise and assist requesters. If any of this information is already in the public domain, please can you direct me to it, with page references and URLs if necessary.

I look forward to hearing from you within 20 working days.

We received your request on 03/04/2025 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 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 part of this request. For the time period requested, there have been in excess of 540 occurrences which would need to be trawled to determine whether the vehicle pursuit involved an injury. This would require a manual trawl through each record, it has been estimated to take 5 minutes per file to review, this would equate to 45 hours. Furthermore, prior to 2020 due to a change in case management system, to review all data would require a manual trawl through each vehicle pursuit to obtain the debrief document. From 2014 to 2020 there has been over 1,350 documents which would need to be reviewed. Furthermore, from 2020 there has been over 380 debrief documents which would need to be reviewed. From dip sampling, it has been estimated that it would take approximately 5 minutes to review each record to extract each vehicle pursuit record, this would equate to over 144 hours. Therefore to service this request would take 189 hours. To achieve this task would therefore exceed the 18-hour time and cost threshold of the FOI 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.

In order to assist in refining your request. Data could be provided where the vehicle pursuit resulted in a fatality from 2014. We could also provide a copy of one redacted Pursuit Management Debrief form. However, please note further exemptions may apply.

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:



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

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
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