

1 May 2025

FOI Ref 21205

Request - You asked us the following:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please could you provide the following information:

1. The number of police officers, Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs), or other police staff currently assigned to work in or with schools within your force area.
 - o Please break this down by job title (e.g. Police Officer, PCSO, etc.) and by local authority area or school (if possible).
 - o If available, please also distinguish between those permanently based in schools (e.g. School Liaison Officers, Safer Schools Officers) and those who visit schools as part of outreach or other duties.
2. A list of all schools (including school name and postcode) that currently have a designated police officer or PCSO assigned to them.
 - o If this would exceed the cost limit, please instead provide the total number of such schools, broken down by local authority or policing area.
3. For each of the last three academic years (e.g. 2021–22, 2022–23, and 2023–24 to date), please provide the number of officers or PCSOs assigned to work in schools or with schools within your force area.
 - o Please include the same breakdowns as above if available.
4. If your force has any specific policies, protocols, or agreements relating to officers in schools (e.g. Memoranda of Understanding with schools or local authorities), please provide copies of these documents. If any part of this request is unclear or likely to exceed the cost/time limit, please advise me as to how I might refine it. I would prefer to receive the information in digital format (e.g. spreadsheet or PDF).

Clarification received 30/04/2025:

Currently assigned and assigned are the same wording. I would like to know how many school officers are employed in your force and in previous years, so please treat the questions as such and let me know if you have any further clarifications.

We received your request on 08/04/2025 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

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

Staffordshire Police holds/does not hold the requested information.

- 1. The number of police officers, Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs), or other police staff currently assigned to work in or with schools within your force area. – **No information held.**
- O Please break this down by job title (e.g. Police Officer, PCSO, etc.) and by local authority area or school (if possible). – **Not applicable.**



- O If available, please also distinguish between those permanently based in schools (e.g. School Liaison Officers, Safer Schools Officers) and those who visit schools as part of outreach or other duties. – **Not applicable.**
- 2. A list of all schools (including school name and postcode) that currently have a designated police officer or PCSO assigned to them. – **No information held.**
- O If this would exceed the cost limit, please instead provide the total number of such schools, broken down by local authority or policing area. – **Not applicable.**
- 3. For each of the last three academic years (e.g. 2021–22, 2022–23, and 2023–24 to date), please provide the number of officers or PCSOs assigned to work in schools or with schools within your force area. – **No information held.**
- O Please include the same breakdowns as above if available. – **Not applicable.**
- 4. If your force has any specific policies, protocols, or agreements relating to officers in schools (e.g. Memoranda of Understanding with schools or local authorities), please provide copies of these documents. – **Withheld, please see below.**

Police Community Support Officers are our main resource for police engagement with schools, however whilst part of their work will involve school liaison/engagement, none are based within the school and none are primarily used only for school engagement.

The following exemption has been applied:

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

- Section 22(1)(a) – Information intended for future publication

Section 22 is a qualified class-based exemption and as such requires the application of a Public Interest Test.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring disclosure for Section 22

To release the information that is held at this particular time would provide the public with an awareness of the most recently collated data serving to enhance public knowledge of the subject

Factors favouring non-disclosure for Section 22

The information being sought for this request is currently in the process of being written. After completion, any data that is researched and prepared will need to be checked and authorised to be fit for release. As the information requested is due to be published in due course the additional time and resources that would be required cannot be justified.

Balance Test

In this case a decision has been made to publish this information in the future. Section 22 allows for circumstances when it is reasonable and correct for public authorities to delay the provision of information until it is made generally available through publication. The additional resources expended by the force to deal with this request at this time would therefore not be in the public interest.

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.

When published, the policies and agreements relating to Staffordshire Police officers in schools will be accessible at the below link.

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Community/Information-sharing-in-Staffordshire/One-Protocol-and-Appendices.aspx>

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.



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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