

8 May 2025

FOI Ref 21278

Request - You asked us the following:

I made a request to the office of the Staffordshire PFCC, Ben Adams, in regard to an alleged crime which was mentioned in the ET, case reference in summary, and a number of responses indicate this matter was referred to Staffordshire police. Please see the questions and responses at the following links

https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/a_request_made_about_alleged_fra#incoming-2902643

https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/a_request_made_about_alleged_fra/response/2905140/attachment/2/SCO%20FOI%20001%202025%20Final%20Response.pdf?cookie_passthrough=1

For clarity, a former employee of SFRS has alleged on multiple occasions that he arranged for building works to be done on the properties of two senior fire service officers and that they did not pay for those works, the implication being that those works were paid for from the budget of SFRS. This individual did disclose this information directly to me and others. A statement written by him was also provided to the Court.

In regard to this matter can you provide the following information:

- 1) Has this alleged crime been reported to Staffordshire Police?
- 2) When was this alleged crime reported to Staffordshire Police?
- 3) Has Staffordshire Police investigated this alleged crime?
- 4) What was the outcome of the investigation into the alleged crime?
- 5) Was a crime number assigned to the investigation into this alleged crime?
- 6) What is the crime number?
- 7) Can you direct me to a specific officer to make contact with in regard to potential new evidence?

We received your request on 28/04/2025 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

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

Staffordshire Police can neither confirm or deny that it holds the information you requested as it believes that the duty under s1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the duty to confirm whether the public authority holds information of the specified description) does not apply.

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 this particular request.

- **Section 40(5) Personal Information**

Section 40(5) is an absolute exemption which means that there is no need to quantify the harm that may arise from the disclosure; neither is it subject to a public interest test.

To release personal or third-party information that may or may not be held by Staffordshire Police, would breach the data protection principles; namely –

- Data is lawfully and fairly processed.
- Processed in line with an individual's rights.
- Data is secure.

Personal and third-party information cannot be released under the Freedom of Information Act.

Disclosure under Freedom of Information is a release of information to the world in general and not an individual applicant.

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.

As a gesture of goodwill, outside of the act, should you wish to make contact with Staffordshire Police regarding new evidence. You may wish to contact us on the link below:

[Contact us | Staffordshire Police](#)

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.

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