

13 May 2025

FOI Ref 21302

Request - You asked us the following:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request the following information:

Does your force have an established policy or procedure regarding arranging professional cleaning of a property following a forensic investigation (e.g., after fingerprint dusting, bodily fluid collection, or other invasive evidence-gathering activities)?

If yes, please provide a copy of the current policy or procedure.

For each of the past six calendar years (2020-2025), please provide:

The number of cases where professional cleaning was arranged by the force following the investigation.

The types of location (eg residential property) for which trauma cleaning was arranged

The types of incidents where trauma cleaning was arranged (eg homicide, suicide)

Total costs for the trauma cleaning jobs

Has your force received any formal complaints from victims or property owners regarding the condition of their property after a forensic investigation in the same period? If so, please provide:

The number of complaints per year.

A summary of the nature of complaints (if available).

Which companies or contractors has your force used to carry out professional cleaning services following forensic investigations in the past five years?

In cases where your force did not arrange professional cleaning, is there a policy or guidance that leaves responsibility for cleaning to the victim or property owner? Please provide details or a copy of this guidance if it exists.

Has your force encountered situations in the past five years where professional cleaning should have been arranged but was not? If so, please provide a summary of any internal reviews, findings, or actions taken as a result.

We received your request on 06/05/2025 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.

- Does your force have an established policy or procedure regarding arranging professional cleaning of a property following a forensic investigation (e.g., after fingerprint dusting, bodily fluid collection, or other invasive evidence-gathering activities)? – **No information held.**
- If yes, please provide a copy of the current policy or procedure. – **Not applicable.**

For each of the past six calendar years (2020-2025), please provide:

- The number of cases where professional cleaning was arranged by the force following the investigation. – **Partially disclosed, the Decontamination Contract data is only recorded in a way to obtain the detail required for the last 3 financial years as follows:**
2022/23 – 318
2023/24 – 400
2024/25 – 353
- The types of location (eg residential property) for which trauma cleaning was arranged – **No information held.**
- The types of incidents where trauma cleaning was arranged (eg homicide, suicide) – **No information held.**
- Total costs for the trauma cleaning jobs – **Partially disclosed, the Decontamination Contract data is only recorded in a way to obtain the detail required for the last 3 financial years as follows:**
2022/23 - £25,365
2023/24 – £132,471
2024/25 – £154,400
This includes the cost of cleans for Forensic Rooms (Sexual Assault Referral Centres and Custody), crime scenes and forensic tent cleans.
- Has your force received any formal complaints from victims or property owners regarding the condition of their property after a forensic investigation in the same period? If so, please provide: - **Disclosed, one complaint.**
- The number of complaints per year. – **Disclosed, 1 in 2023.**
- A summary of the nature of complaints (if available). – **Disclosed, accidental spillage of aluminium powder on carpeted surface.**
- Which companies or contractors has your force used to carry out professional cleaning services following forensic investigations in the past five years? – **Disclosed, Matrix Biohazard and CSC Crime Scene Cleaning.**

- In cases where your force did not arrange professional cleaning, is there a policy or guidance that leaves responsibility for cleaning to the victim or property owner? Please provide details or a copy of this guidance if it exists. – **No information held.**
- Has your force encountered situations in the past five years where professional cleaning should have been arranged but was not? If so, please provide a summary of any internal reviews, findings, or actions taken as a result. – **No information held.**

Please note that this data has been provided to the best of our ability, subject to the limitation of current recording protocols and systems/software.

Every effort is made to ensure that the data presented is accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that this has been extracted from multiple sources, developed for specific policing purposes, for which data extraction methods have not been specifically designed to directly correlate with the terminology of this request. Therefore, the data presented is subject to the inaccuracies and idiosyncrasies inherent in any large-scale recording system.

As a consequence, care should be taken in the interpretation and presentation of this data, so as to not misrepresent the whole or any part of the data disclosed.

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