

29 May 2025

FOI Ref 21357

Request - You asked us the following:

We write to make certain requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please note:

- The following requests relate to crime outcome data for sexual offences and of which, rape offences investigated by your Force.
- We are not seeking information that enables identification of any victims or suspects, only the specific data requested. If such data cannot be provided, please confirm whether or not it exists.
- For these offence types, we request data in relation to timeliness, specifically, we are seeking data on the length of time between the victim's report to the Police and the date an outcome was assigned by the Police.
- We would like this data in respect of the following time periods: (1) April 2014 to March 2015, (2) April 2015 to March 2016, (3) April 2016 to March 2017, (4) April 2017 to March 2018, (5) April 2018 to March 2019, (6) April 2019 to March 2020, (7) April 2020 to March 2021, (8) April 2021 to March 2022, (9) April 2022 to March 2023, (10) April 2023 to March 2024 (11) April 2024-March 2025
- We ask that you provide the total number of outcomes recorded for the period (sexual offences and of which rape) as well as the number of outcomes recorded in that period where the date the victim reported, to the date the Police outcome was recorded falls into the below time frames:

Over 3 years but less than 4 years (1095-1460 days)
Over 4 years but less than 5 years (1460-1825 days)
Over 5 years but less than 6 years (1825-2190 days)
Over 6 years but less than 7 years (2190-2555 days)
Over 7 years but less than 8 years (2555-2920 days)
Over 8 years but less than 9 years (2920-3285 days)
Over 9 years (3285 days)

- In addition, for the periods 1) April 2023-March 2024 2) April 2024-March 2025, we ask that you provide the total number of sexual offences and of which rape, open to your force, where an outcome was/is yet to be assigned, and time since the victim reported meets the below time frames:

Over 3 years but less than 4 years (1095-1460 days)
Over 4 years but less than 5 years (1460-1825 days)
Over 5 years but less than 6 years (1825-2190 days)
Over 6 years but less than 7 years (2190-2555 days)
Over 7 years but less than 8 years (2555-2920 days)
Over 8 years (but less than 9 years (2920-3285 days)



Over 9 years (3285 days)

For ease of reference, please provide the data by completing the below tables:

Clarification received 23/05/2025:

we mean the number of reports where time since reporting meets the time frames (3+ yrs 4+ years and so on) that were/are still open during the time periods April 23-March 24, and April 24-March 25.

For example, a rape offence reported in 2018, and yet to be assigned an outcome before end of March 2025 would be counted here.

We received your request on 15/05/2025 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

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

Staffordshire Police holds the requested information.

- We ask that you provide the total number of outcomes recorded for the period (sexual offences and of which rape) as well as the number of outcomes recorded in that period where the date the victim reported, to the date the Police outcome was recorded falls into the below time frames:
Over 3 years but less than 4 years (1095-1460 days)
Over 4 years but less than 5 years (1460-1825 days)
Over 5 years but less than 6 years (1825-2190 days)
Over 6 years but less than 7 years (2190-2555 days)
Over 7 years but less than 8 years (2555-2920 days)
Over 8 years but less than 9 years (2920-3285 days)
Over 9 years (3285 days) – **Disclosed, please see accompanying file titled 'FOI 21357 Rapes and Sexual Offences Data – Revised Response.xlsx'.**
- In addition, for the periods 1) April 2023-March 2024 2) April 2024-March 2025, we ask that you provide the total number of sexual offences and of which rape, open to your force, where an outcome was/is yet to be assigned, and time since the victim reported meets the below time frames:
Over 3 years but less than 4 years (1095-1460 days)
Over 4 years but less than 5 years (1460-1825 days)
Over 5 years but less than 6 years (1825-2190 days)
Over 6 years but less than 7 years (2190-2555 days)
Over 7 years but less than 8 years (2555-2920 days)
Over 8 years (but less than 9 years (2920-3285 days)
Over 9 years (3285 days) – **Disclosed, please see accompanying file titled 'FOI 21357 Rapes and Sexual Offences Data – Revised Response.xlsx'.**

Please note that data relating to rape offences includes the offences of rape, attempted rape and arrange/facilitate rape.

Please also note that cases of sexual offences and rape can be closed if the victim does not want to pursue an investigation when it is initially reported to us, but should the victim wish to discuss the crime with us in the future (this could be years later), then we will reopen the case. This will impact on the data as the

calculation is based on reported to outcome dates (which would include the timespan during which the investigation was closed).

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. Additional offences/incidents may have been recorded during these timescales but are awaiting finalisation and input onto these systems and would not be present within this dataset.

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.

3. Review Procedure



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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