

30 May 2025

FOI Ref 21403

Request - You asked us the following:

Submitting the below FOI request, specifically looking at road collisions for learner drivers:

Q1. Please provide the total number of reported road traffic collisions from the years 2023, 2024 and year to date 2025, involving:

- a) Learner drivers (those driving with a provisional licence)
- b) Newly qualified drivers (those who passed their driving test within the past 24 months at the time of the collision, or as recorded)

Q2. For the figures in Q1, please provide a breakdown of each category by:

- a) Severity of the collision (e.g. fatal, serious, slight)
- b) Age of the driver involved (e.g. 17–19, 20–24, 25–29, etc., or as recorded)

Q3. If held, please also include the year in which the driver passed their driving test, or the date they gained their full licence, where this is available.

We received your request on 28/05/2025 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 this request. For the time period requested, there have been in excess of 23,000 road traffic collisions recorded on our incident recording system. There is no mandatory field to record whether the driver of the car involved in a collision was a learner or newly qualified driver. Therefore, in order to determine this, the incident log for each collision would require manual review. Further review would also need to be conducted in order to

establish the age of the driver involved, and the year in which the driver passed their test or gained their full licence, if held.

From dip sampling, it has been estimated that it would take approximately 5-10 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to between 1,916 and 3,833 hours. To achieve this task would therefore exceed the 18-hour time and cost threshold of the Freedom of Information 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.

Unfortunately, we cannot suggest a way in which your request could be simplified or pared down in order to bring it within the confines of the time and cost threshold.

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



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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