

3 November 2025

FOI Ref 21923

Request - You asked us the following:

I am writing to request information under the FOI Act 2000. Please provide the following information. I am happy to receive it in the form of a spreadsheet or several spreadsheets. All my questions refer to the crime of working illegally (i.e. the worker does not have the right to work in the UK), and not to the crime of employing an illegal worker. I am aware that information about employers fined for hiring illegal workers is already published.

1. For every month since the beginning of 2025, how many right to work checks have been carried out by police officers (i.e. number of people's whose immigration status was checked by police)?
2. For every month since the beginning of 2025, how many of those right to work checks were conducted on people working as delivery riders for Deliveroo/UberEats/?
3. For every month since the beginning of 2025, how many people were arrested for working illegally?
4. For every month since the beginning of 2025, how many of those arrested for working illegally were asylum seekers?
5. For every month since the beginning of 2025, how many of those arrested for working illegally were working as delivery riders for Deliveroo/UberEats/JustEat?
6. For every month since the beginning of 2025, how many people have been charged with working illegally
7. For every month since the beginning of 2025, how many possible hate crimes against asylum seekers have been recorded? If you do not have a figure on this specifically, please instead provide a combined figure for violent crimes recorded where the victim was an asylum seeker.
8. For every month since the beginning of 2025, how many violent crimes against people working as delivery riders have been recorded?

If you do not have data on questions 7 and 8, or collating it would exceed costs, please provide a response to questions 1-6.

Email from applicant 10/10/2025

I would like to clarify that questions 1 and 2 relate to right to work checks carried out on people who were not already under arrest.

We received your request on 06/10/2025 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 last month alone, there have been in excess of 10,300 occurrences. In order to ascertain whether each record relates to a right to work check, an arrest or charge for illegal working, or a violent or hate crime involving asylum seekers or delivery riders, each record would require manual review. To extract this data would therefore require a very labour-intensive manual trawl through each record

From dip sampling, it has been estimated that it would take approximately 4 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to over 686 hours. To achieve this task would therefore exceed the 18-hour time and cost threshold of the FOI 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:

IAT@staffordshire.police.uk

Or by Post to:

Information Access Team
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 Information Access Team 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 a Supervisor who is independent from the original Decision Maker. The Information Access Team 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 Supervisor 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 Supervisor will reply to the appellant with the result of the review. If the appellant 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 link: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/foi-and-eir-complaints/foi-and-eir-complaints/>

Freedom of Information
Information Access Team