

[REDACTED]

From: Freedom of Information <foi@staffordshire.police.uk>
Sent: 04 September 2025 09:35
To: NPCC CRU Mailbox
Subject: Staffordshire Police FOI 21814 CRU Referral Form
Attachments: FOI 21814 CRU Referral Form.docx

Hi all,

Please find attached a CRU Referral Form from Staffordshire Police.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Freedom of Information Team within the Information Access Team

Deputy Chief Constable Command
Information Governance and Assurance



Staffordshire Police

NPFDU CRU Referral Guidance and Form

In order for the NPFDU CRU to deliver its remit, forces and partners must refer certain requests so the unit can centrally assess. Please carefully read the following to allow the team to respond as promptly and as accurately as possible.

All mandatory referrals and requests for specific disclosure advice must come via a completed referral form emailed to [REDACTED] Please note incomplete forms will be returned.

- Mandatory referrals take priority and will be prioritised over general advice questions. The unit must ensure mandatory referral advice is in line with national guidance and respond promptly to enable forces to do similar.
- In addition to these mandatory referrals, any FOI/EIR requests that require specific disclosure and/or technical advice can be sent to the above email address with a completed form.
- Once an FOI referral has been received, we will generate an e-mail which will confirm its URN. This message may also contain further instructions which must be complied with before further guidance can be issued.
- Any request referred must not be answered until a final response has been received from the NPFDU CRU, unless otherwise stated from the team. If your force is considering making a disclosure prior to advice being issued or if it does not intend to follow national guidance, please make contact as soon as possible.
- The team aim to respond within the SLA of 10 working days, if the team are unable to, you will be notified. The team cannot prioritise a referral because it has been sent in late from a force. Please use our drop in sessions if appropriate.

Please note some additional questions have been added to the referral form below. It is important these are answered in as much detail as possible. If not, or left blank, the team will return the form and ask for further information before responding. This will assist the NPFDU in providing informative, consistent and accurate advice in a timely manner and to prevent delays to our service.

It is encouraged that general advice on the referral process or a simple FOI/EIR technical query is best resolved via a call to the team on [REDACTED] (works via MS Teams also) or attend a weekly drop in session on Tuesday or Thursday anytime between 11am-1130am via this MS Teams Link.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

The Team may still request a referral form after initial consultation.

Mandatory Referrals-By Subject Area	
Subject	Further Detail
Witness protection/protected persons.	Ultra high risk subject area which must be referred to CRU.
Requests which name and/or relate to information which MAY originate from any of the S23 bodies.	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Covert operations, use of informants or surveillance activities or tactics.	Ultra high risk subject area which must be referred to CRU.
New programmes or software products such as Data Platforms/systems/tools for operational purposes.	Requests relating to operational products (whether being piloted, trialled or implemented or not), including engagement with new software companies that predominately handle big data such as 'Briefcam', 'Palantir'. Referrals are not required for back office functions such as AI Chatbot, crime prediction tools etc. If known please inform the CRU of the operational context of the product e.g. AI analysing digital evidence
Counter terrorism (incl Prevent, Pursue, Protect, Prepare) and/or national security material or operations.	Includes SB, CTU, CBRN, port or airport operations, Crowded Spaces and ANPR.
VIP/Royalty Protection.	To include high profile Royal events and visits.
Information received from or which relates to certain partner agencies. <i>Referral only required once established information is captured by the request.*</i>	Includes NPCC, any government department, IOPC, CPS and College of Policing.
Major or complex incidents or major investigations or operations.*	Examples such as extremist protests, <u>large</u> scale public disorder, multiple or high profile unexplained deaths, cross border incidents. Will also include national operations and Inquiries. Please contact the CRU if unsure. <i>Local investigations/operations do not need referring.</i>
International Relations	Includes international training, visiting overseas dignitaries & FCO equities where s27 may be engaged.
National Security	Requests requiring s24 will need stakeholder consideration
Notification of ICO complaint, First Tier Tribunal or Upper Tribunal activity	
Requests with potentially significant reputational implications, e.g. the storage of human tissue.	Where national policing leads would welcome the opportunity to comment on high profile matters (if unsure please contact the CRU)
Requests for information held for the purpose of a statutory Inquiry under the Inquiries Act 2005	Examples – UCPI, Manchester Arena, Death of Dawn Sturgess, Grenfell

***If a request is captured by previous NPFDU guidance within the past 12 months, then no referral is required.**

Temporary Mandatory Referrals	
Subject	Date added
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

There is no requirement to refer if the information requested is already officially published 'Officially published' includes, MAPPA reports and websites such as OSC, The College of Policing, NPCC, Government, IOPC, PCC, Police.UK or Force websites, or documents already marked as suitable for publication under FOIA 2000.

NPFDU CRU Referral Form

PLEASE COMPLETE ALL THE BELOW FIELDS TO ENSURE ACCURATE & TIMELY ADVICE, IT IS GREATLY APPRECIATED. THANK YOU

Force reference number:	FOI 21814
Date request received:	03/09/2025
Type of request:	Initial ☒ Internal ☐ Review Appeal ☐ Tribunal ☐ (delete as appropriate) If at IR or appeal stage please provide sight of previous responses and requestors comments.
Applicants Name for reference	[REDACTED]
Actual wording of request	1) Has this police force ever requested or collected biometric data—such as fingerprints, photographs, or videos—from an educational establishment or an educational supplier? This pertains to educational institutions from Nursery through Year 13 and excludes institutions for students beyond Year 13. 2) If the answer to question 1 is yes, please specify the types of biometric data obtained (e.g., fingerprints, photographs), the number of individuals involved, and whether this data was shared with any other entities such as Prevent. 3) If the answer to question 1 is yes, have any convictions been secured based on data obtained from a school biometric database? 4) If the answer to question 1 is yes, has any biometric data been added to the police database? If so, please provide the number of data subjects' biometric records added each year.
Reason for referral	Non mandatory advice – please state why advice needed [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Specific advice required	Please see above.
Is it a valid request (S8)	Yes
Do you know what information you hold? Please provide as much detail as possible.	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Is the information retrievable within 18 hours, is s12 a consideration?	YES: ☒ NO: ☐
What views and opinions are held by the FOI team and Business leads?	No concerns expressed.
Person dealing with request and contact number:	████████████████████ ██████████

Produced by Staffordshire Police
for FOI 21974

[REDACTED]

From: NPCC CRU Mailbox [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 September 2025 13:27
To: Freedom of Information
Cc: Freedom of Information
Subject: CRU reference: 01/CRF/25/005241/C - Biometric Data - Request logged - Copy of 1603/21 Required/Advice to Follow

Categories: Allocated to [REDACTED]

Caution: This email originated from outside of the force. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear [REDACTED]

The below FOI request has now been logged in the CRU. Please can you send us a copy of CRU advice 1603/21, as we no longer have a record held on our systems. Advice will follow in due course.

Our reference: 01/CRF/25/005241/C
Referred by: Northamptonshire Police (17316/25), Staffordshire Police (FOI/1413)
Sent from: [REDACTED]

The Applicant name is included in the acknowledgement email as a reference for forces only, any future correspondence will only quote the CRU reference number. Please do not duplicate the applicant name in any future correspondence and use only the CRU reference number

Applicant's request:

- 1) Has this police force ever requested or collected biometric data—such as fingerprints, photographs, or videos—from an educational establishment or an educational supplier? This pertains to educational institutions from Nursery through Year 13 and excludes institutions for students beyond Year 13.
- 2) If the answer to question 1 is yes, please specify the types of biometric data obtained (e.g., fingerprints, photographs), the number of individuals involved, and whether this data was shared with any other entities such as Prevent.
- 3) If the answer to question 1 is yes, have any convictions been secured based on data obtained from a school biometric database?
- 4) If the answer to question 1 is yes, has any biometric data been added to the police database? If so, please provide the number of data subjects' biometric records added each year.

If this Freedom of Information request exceeds Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act, please prioritize your response to question 1, or questions 1 and 2, as these are my primary data interests. Please provide as much data as possible from the present extending into the past, within the constraints of Section 12. I would appreciate the data in the most cost-effective and convenient format for your response.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
Management Assistant
National Police Freedom of Information and Data Protection Unit
National Police Chiefs' Council
[REDACTED]



This email contains information which is confidential and may also be privileged. It is for the exclusive use of the addressee(s) and any views or opinions expressed within are those of the originator and not necessarily those of the Force. If you are not the intended recipient(s) please note that any form of distribution, copying or use of this email or the information contained is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful. If you have received this communication in error please forward a copy to [REDACTED] and to the sender. Please then delete the email and destroy any copies of it. DO NOT use this email address for other enquiries as it will not be responded to, nor any action taken upon it. If you have a non-urgent enquiry, please call the Police non-emergency number 101. If it is an emergency, please call 999. Thank you.

Produced by Staffordshire Police
for FOI 21974

From: NPCC CRU Mailbox [REDACTED]
Sent: 23 September 2025 07:55
Cc: 'Freedom of Information'; 'Freedom of Information (Surrey)'; Freedom of Information
Subject: OS - CRU 25/5241
Categories: Allocated to [REDACTED]

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OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE

POLICE EYES ONLY

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Dear All,

Our reference: 01/CRF/25/005241/C
Referred by: Northamptonshire, Staffordshire, Surrey

Applicant's request:

- 1) Has this police force ever requested or collected biometric data—such as fingerprints, photographs, or videos—from an educational establishment or an educational supplier? This pertains to educational institutions from Nursery through Year 13 and excludes institutions for students beyond Year 13.
- 2) If the answer to question 1 is yes, please specify the types of biometric data obtained (e.g., fingerprints, photographs), the number of individuals involved, and whether this data was shared with any other entities such as Prevent.
- 3) If the answer to question 1 is yes, have any convictions been secured based on data obtained from a school biometric database?
- 4) If the answer to question 1 is yes, has any biometric data been added to the police database? If so, please provide the number of data subjects' biometric records added each year.

If this Freedom of Information request exceeds Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act, please prioritize your response to question 1, or questions 1 and 2, as these are my primary data interests. Please provide as much data as possible from the present extending into the past, within the constraints of Section 12. I would appreciate the data in the most cost-effective and convenient format for your response.

CRU Advice:

It is likely that it would exceed Cost trying to establish that any information is held whatsoever. That said, my interpretation of this request is that the applicant envisages the police being provided bulk biometric data from educational institutions, which is a scenario I feel is not one that the police would contemplate doing?

In conclusion a factual answer to the effect that the police wouldn't hold such information in this scenario is probably the most pragmatic route. But please take advice from your in-force experts beforehand.

Please let us know if we can assist further.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
Freedom of Information Referral Officer
National Police Freedom of Information and Data Protection Unit
National Police Chiefs Council



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Produced by [REDACTED] for FOI [REDACTED] for Staffordshire Police

[REDACTED]

From: Freedom of Information [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 September 2025 14:56
To: NPCC CRU Mailbox
Subject: RE: CRU 01/CRF/25/005137/D - Leisure Centres - Your ref - 21692 - Advice included

Thanks [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Freedom of Information Team within the Information Access Team

Deputy Chief Constable Command
Information Governance and Assurance



Staffordshire Police

From: NPCC CRU Mailbox [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 September 2025 14:53
To: Freedom of Information <foi@staffordshire.police.uk>
Subject: RE: CRU 01/CRF/25/005137/D - Leisure Centres - Your ref - 21692 - Advice included

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Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email and additional details.

We can see where your concerns are coming from that by the use of the exemption itself, could it identify [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] I have re-looked at this for you to determine if any other exemption could be used here, however as the data is over two years old and spread out across 7 different leisure centres, we would still advise to exempt by s40. This is due to the fact that disclosure [REDACTED] is not an option and a full NCND would not hold up to ICO scrutiny.

If it helps, we have known before with some other forces in similar circumstances that they have given a 'lower than

5' disclosure outside of the act independently. If you were to choose to go down this route you would still need to cite s40 to protect the personal information, but by saying less than 5 it does not alert [REDACTED] and identifying an individual. This obviously would be at your own discretion.

Hope that helps. If you need further advice please let us know.

Kind regards
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[why have I put this?](#)

NPFDU FOI Referral Officer

National Police Freedom of Information and Data Protection Unit | National Police Chiefs Council

[REDACTED]

' Via MS Teams

Advanced notification of leave:

From: Freedom of Information <foi@staffordshire.police.uk>

Sent: 05 September 2025 08:41

To: NPCC CRU Mailbox [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: CRU 01/CRF/25/005137/D - Leisure Centres - Your ref - 21692 - Advice included

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for this advice. We have the figures for Q1-8 now, and would appreciate your thoughts/advice on disclosure please?

- 1. How many reports have been made to your police force of sexual assault which are alleged to have taken place in leisure centres and swimming pools* between 1 January 2023 and 31st December 2023? – **Disclosed, nil.**
- 2. How many reports have been made to your police force of rape which are alleged to have taken place in leisure centres and swimming pools* between 1 January 2023 and 31st December 2023? – **Disclosed, nil.**
- 3. How many reports have been made to your police force of voyeurism (all forms of covert surveillance whether using a recording device or in person) which are alleged to have taken place in leisure centres and swimming pools* between 1 January 2023 and 31st December 2023? – [REDACTED]
- 4. How many of the above points 1, 2 & 3 were reported to have taken place in a mixed sex, open plan village style changing area? – **Disclosed, nil.**

Please note that we have interpreted this question to mean an open plan village style changing area that is also mixed sex.

- 5. How many of the above points 1, 2 & 3 were reported to have taken place in a single-sex changing room? – **Disclosed, nil.**
- 6. How many of the above points 1, 2 & 3 were reported to have been committed by a male? – [REDACTED]

- 7. How many of the above points 1, 2 & 3 were reported to have been committed by a male member of staff? – **Disclosed, nil.**
- 8. How many of the above points 1, 2 & 3 were reported to have involved a female victim? – [REDACTED]

We can apply S40 for questions 3, 6 and 8, however we are concerned that the use of this exemption in itself may reveal that it is a [REDACTED] (albeit the applicant would not know the exact figure).

Thanks for your time with this,

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Freedom of Information Team within the Information Access Team

Deputy Chief Constable Command
Information Governance and Assurance



Staffordshire Police

From: NPCC CRU Mailbox [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 September 2025 08:19
To: Freedom of Information <foi@staffordshire.police.uk>
Subject: CRU 01/CRF/25/005137/D - Leisure Centres - Your ref - 21692 - Advice included

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OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE

POLICE EYES ONLY

Not to be distributed outside of the Police network or other agencies without prior authorisation from the CRU

Dear All,

The below FOI request was logged in the CRU. Advice is at the end of this message.

Our reference: 01/CRF/25/005137/D

Referred by: Staffordshire Police

Applicant's request:

1. How many reports have been made to your police force of sexual assault which are alleged to have taken place in leisure centres and swimming pools* between 1 January 2023 and 31st December 2023?

2. How many reports have been made to your police force of rape which are alleged to have taken place in leisure

centres and swimming pools* between 1 January 2023 and 31st December 2023?

3. How many reports have been made to your police force of voyeurism (all forms of covert surveillance whether using a recording device or in person) which are alleged to have taken place in leisure centres and swimming pools* between 1 January 2023 and 31st December 2023?

4. How many of the above points 1, 2 & 3 were reported to have taken place in a mixed sex, open plan village style changing area?

5. How many of the above points 1, 2 & 3 were reported to have taken place in a single-sex changing room?

6. How many of the above points 1, 2 & 3 were reported to have been committed by a male?

7. How many of the above points 1, 2 & 3 were reported to have been committed by a male member of staff?

8. How many of the above points 1, 2 & 3 were reported to have involved a female victim?

9. Does your force record the sex of offenders as biological sex or as gender identity?

*Leisure centres and swimming pools, with addresses, to facilitate this request:

Stafford Leisure Centre, Lammascote Rd, Stafford ST16 3TA Wilnecote Leisure Centre, Tinkers Green Rd, Wilnecote, Tamworth B77 5LF Friary Grange Leisure Centre, Eastern Ave, Lichfield WS13 7SQ Chase Leisure Centre, Stafford Rd, Cannock WS11 4AL Meadows Leisure Centre, High St, Burton-on-Trent DE14 1TL Fenton Manor Sports Complex, City Rd, Fenton, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 2RR South Moorlands Leisure Centre, Churnet Grange, Leek ST13 6HU

CRU Advice:

Advice is provided on the assumption that all the requested information can be located and retrieved within the cost threshold. Where this is not relevant, s12 is recommended to be used. When issuing your refusal notice we recommend that you advise the applicant how best to refine their request to fit within the cost threshold, if feasible to do so.

Q1,2,3,4,5,6,8 – We have not received any data on whether this information is held by your force and if any harm has been identified by your business areas. However as the date range is two years ago, If the information is held by your force and there are no low numbers that could lead to identifying an individual, and the business areas see no harm then this may be considered for disclosure following thorough local assessment for any law enforcement considerations s31, and personal details s40.

We imagine if any information is held on Q7 this number is likely to be very low and will need to be assessed in the same way.

Q9 – We are content with your response to this.

If you need any further advice please let us know.

Kind Regards

[Redacted Signature]

[Redacted Name]

[why have I put this?](#)

NPFDU FOI Referral Officer

National Police Freedom of Information and Data Protection Unit | National Police Chiefs Council

[REDACTED]

' Via MS Teams

Advanced notification of leave:

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www.staffordshire.police.uk

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[REDACTED]

From: NPCC CRU Mailbox [REDACTED]
Sent: 08 September 2025 14:04
To: Freedom of Information
Subject: CRU ref: 25/5129/D - Your ref: FOI 21587 - Digital Forensics - Including Advice
Categories: Allocated to [REDACTED]

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OFFICIAL - SENSITIVE

POLICE EYES ONLY

Not to be distributed outside of the Police network or other agencies without prior authorisation from the CRU

Dear All,

The below FOI request was logged in the CRU. Advice is at the end of this message.

Our reference: 25/5129/D
Referred by: Staffordshire Police

Applicant's request:

What was the Digital Forensics training budget for 2024-2025 and 2025-2026

How many Digital Forensics examiners do you have in the Digital Forensics Unit? Please include Technicians, Seniors and Digital Forensics Officers (or equivalent)

Please provide the details of external training courses provided to digital forensics examiners within your Digital Forensics Unit (name of course and supplier)

Are all examiners routinely sent on certain courses? If so, which ones?

Aside from courses what other training events/CPD do you offer to your Digital Forensics Department?

Force Comments:

We have just received the information to respond to this FOI from the data holder, and have realised that it contains potentially sensitive information relating to specific Digital Forensic systems. Please see below. Possible section 24 and section 31 exemptions being considered

What was the Digital Forensics training budget for 2024-2025 and 2025-2026

From the 2 year forecasting submitted by Digital forensics last year their request was below:-

[REDACTED]

Total: £87,510.00

How many Digital Forensics examiners do you have in the Digital Forensics Unit? Please include Technicians, Seniors and Digital Forensics Officers (or equivalent)

35

Please provide the details of external training courses provided to digital forensics examiners within your Digital Forensics Unit (name of course and supplier)

These are a range of courses that are considered as part of the Digital Forensics Unit training requirements

Adobe Premiere Pro Advanced CC	Armada
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Automating Administration with PowerShell	Microsoft
Biohazard Awareness	NUK

Are all examiners routinely sent on certain courses? If so, which ones?

Examiners are not routinely sent on courses but assessed as to the requirement dependent on skills, knowledge and experience of the practitioner. These are assessed through personal development plans.

Aside from courses what other training events/CPD do you offer to your Digital Forensics Department?

Some training is delivered internally but other opportunities through webinars, on line events and conferences and workshops.

CRU Advice:

Thank you for providing the above information. We see no immediate issue with your responses to the non-highlighted questions. However, in respect of Q3 (highlighted), exemptions will be required. Advice on Q3 is as follows:

Any information that would reveal the name of specific digital forensic providers or specific digital forensic software products in use by the force should be withheld s31(1)(a)(b). As an example, [REDACTED] must not be disclosed.

Even where a provider or software type used is not *directly* named, if the company that provided the training would reveal software or providers, then that should also be made exempt. Equally, if the training course title reveals operational tactics in the arena of digital forensics which are otherwise not publically avowed, then these should also be exempt from disclosure.

In short, it is likely s31(1)(a)(b) exemption will apply to most, if not all the information here, unless something is confirmed by your DF team to be so high level and generic that no DF provider, software of specialist non-avowed

tactic could be determined from a disclosure. We recommend consultation with your DF team to make these determinations.

On a final point of clarification, in previous similar cases s24(1) has not been included to requests such as these, so we recommend it is not used in this case in order to maintain consistency – s31 on its own is sufficient.

Regarding harm, recent cases have included wording relating to the exemption of providers and products of digital forensics – for ease of reference I have included that below to assist as harm here is fundamentally the same. Please ensure you tailor the wording so that it is case specific to this particular request.

Harm and PIT example wording – s31(1)(a)(b)

Commercial Forensic Service Providers are vitally important in the Criminal Justice system - not only do they play a crucial role by supporting UK Policing with backlogs in the Digital Forensics arena, but they provide Defence teams with access to independent forensic experts to support their clients.

Whilst not questioning the motives of the applicant, it must be taken into account when considering potential harm that a disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 is made to the world at large, rather than a private correspondence. Specific details of any digital forensic software or providers used by [Police Force name] would be extremely useful to those involved in criminality as it would enable them to create a map of those most used by police Forces. Forensic Service Providers can be targeted by malicious actors, for example in 2019 Eurofins (one of the UKs largest FSPs) suffered a highly sophisticated ransomware attack which severely disrupted UK Policing and the Criminal Justice system.

Providing information that disclosed digital forensics software and/or providers used would mean that force by force, a malign individual could identify the software and/or providers most critical to law enforcement and specifically target those providing the most assistance. This would have a huge impact on the effective delivery of operational law enforcement as it would leave companies open to cyberattacks which could have devastating consequences.

Factors favouring Disclosure - *Confirming details of the software used would be of interest to the public, namely give insight into the forensic processes used to solve crimes.*

Factors favouring Non-Disclosure - *Measures are put in place to protect the community we serve and as evidenced within the harm, to provide information that revealed digital forensic software or providers would allow individuals intent on disrupting law enforcement to target specific companies using the information obtained to maximise the impact.*

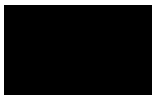
Taking into account the current security climate and the increasing risk of cyber-attack within the United Kingdom, no information which may aid criminality should be disclosed. It is clear that it would have an impact on a Force's ability to carry out the core duty of enforcing the law and serving the community.

The public entrust the Police Service to make appropriate decisions with regard to their safety and protection and the only way of reducing risk is to be cautious with what is placed into the public domain.

Balance Test

The Police Service is charged with enforcing the law, preventing and detecting crime and protecting the communities we serve. In order to effectively and robustly carry out those duties, services are utilised which are vital to investigating criminal activity. Weakening the mechanisms used to investigate any type of criminal activity would have a detrimental impact on law enforcement as a whole. To provide the names of digital forensic software or providers currently in use by the force increases the known risks of cyber-attacks and would undermine any trust or confidence the public have in the Police Service. Therefore, at this moment in time, it is our opinion that the balance test favours against the disclosure.

Kind regards



National Freedom of Information Referral Officer
National Police FOI & DP Central Referral Unit (NPFDU)
National Police Chiefs' Council



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From: Freedom of Information <foi@staffordshire.police.uk>
Sent: 08 September 2025 14:32
To: NPCC CRU Mailbox
Subject: CRU Referral Form FOI 21832
Attachments: FOI 21832 CRU Referral Form.docx

Hi all,

Please find attached a CRU Referral Form from Staffordshire Police.

Kind regards,

Freedom of Information Team within the Information Access Team

Deputy Chief Constable Command
Information Governance and Assurance



**STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE**

Staffordshire Police

NPFDU CRU Referral Guidance and Form

In order for the NPFDU CRU to deliver its remit, forces and partners must refer certain requests so the unit can centrally assess. Please carefully read the following to allow the team to respond as promptly and as accurately as possible.

All mandatory referrals and requests for specific disclosure advice must come via a completed referral form emailed to [REDACTED] Please note incomplete forms will be returned.

- Mandatory referrals take priority and will be prioritised over general advice questions. The unit must ensure mandatory referral advice is in line with national guidance and respond promptly to enable forces to do similar.
- In addition to these mandatory referrals, any FOI/EIR requests that require specific disclosure and/or technical advice can be sent to the above email address with a completed form.
- Once an FOI referral has been received, we will generate an e-mail which will confirm its URN. This message may also contain further instructions which must be complied with before further guidance can be issued.
- Any request referred must not be answered until a final response has been received from the NPFDU CRU, unless otherwise stated from the team. If your force is considering making a disclosure prior to advice being issued or if it does not intend to follow national guidance, please make contact as soon as possible.
- The team aim to respond within the SLA of 10 working days, if the team are unable to, you will be notified. The team cannot prioritise a referral because it has been sent in late from a force. Please use our drop in sessions if appropriate.

Please note some additional questions have been added to the referral form below. It is important these are answered in as much detail as possible. If not, or left blank, the team will return the form and ask for further information before responding. This will assist the NPFDU in providing informative, consistent and accurate advice in a timely manner and to prevent delays to our service.

It is encouraged that general advice on the referral process or a simple FOI/EIR technical query is best resolved via a call to the team on [REDACTED] (works via MS Teams also) or attend a weekly drop in session on Tuesday or Thursday anytime between 11am-1130am via this MS Teams Link.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

The Team may still request a referral form after initial consultation.

Mandatory Referrals-By Subject Area	
Subject	Further Detail
Witness protection/protected persons.	Ultra high risk subject area which must be referred to CRU.
Requests which name and/or relate to information which MAY originate from any of the S23 bodies.	[REDACTED]
Covert operations, use of informants or surveillance activities or tactics.	Ultra high risk subject area which must be referred to CRU.
New programmes or software products such as Data Platforms/systems/tools for operational purposes.	Requests relating to operational products (whether being piloted, trialled or implemented or not), including engagement with new software companies that predominately handle big data such as 'Briefcam', 'Palantir'. Referrals are not required for back office functions such as AI Chatbot, crime prediction tools etc. If known please inform the CRU of the operational context of the product e.g. AI analysing digital evidence
Counter terrorism (incl Prevent, Pursue, Protect, Prepare) and/or national security material or operations.	Includes SB, CTU, CBRN, port or airport operations, Crowded Spaces and ANPR.
VIP/Royalty Protection.	To include high profile Royal events and visits.
Information received from or which relates to certain partner agencies. <i>Referral only required once established information is captured by the request.*</i>	Includes NPCC, any government department, IOPC, CPS and College of Policing.
Major or complex incidents or major investigations or operations.*	Examples such as extremist protests, <u>large</u> scale public disorder, multiple or high profile unexplained deaths, cross border incidents. Will also include national operations and inquiries. Please contact the CRU if unsure. <i>Local investigations/operations do not need referring.</i>
International Relations	Includes international training, visiting overseas dignitaries & FCO equities where s27 may be engaged.
National Security	Requests requiring s24 will need stakeholder consideration
Notification of ICO complaint, First Tier Tribunal or Upper Tribunal activity	
Requests with potentially significant reputational implications, e.g. the storage of human tissue.	Where national policing leads would welcome the opportunity to comment on high profile matters (if unsure please contact the CRU)
Requests for information held for the purpose of a statutory Inquiry under the Inquiries Act 2005	Examples – UCPI, Manchester Arena, Death of Dawn Sturgess, Grenfell

***If a request is captured by previous NPFDU guidance within the past 12 months, then no referral is required.**

Temporary Mandatory Referrals	
Subject	Date added
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	

There is no requirement to refer if the information requested is already officially published 'Officially published' includes, MAPPA reports and websites such as OSC, The College of Policing, NPCC, Government, IOPC, PCC, Police.UK or Force websites, or documents already marked as suitable for publication under FOIA 2000.

NPFDU CRU Referral Form

PLEASE COMPLETE ALL THE BELOW FIELDS TO ENSURE ACCURATE & TIMELY ADVICE, IT IS GREATLY APPRECIATED. THANK YOU

Force reference number:	FOI 21832
Date request received:	08/09/2025
Type of request:	Initial ☒ Internal ☐ Review Appeal ☐ Tribunal ☐ (delete as appropriate) If at IR or appeal stage please provide sight of previous responses and requestors comments.
Applicants Name for reference	[REDACTED]
Actual wording of request	1. Please provide the number of cases of modern slavery and human trafficking reported to the force for each calendar year between January 1st 2019 and December 31st 2024. 2. Please disaggregate data according to the following information: The crime outcome of the offences (for example, this includes but is not limited to outcomes such as 'cautioned', 'charged/summonsed', evidential difficulties (victim does not support investigation), no suspect identified, 'Not in public interest (police), Not in public interest (CPS)' and any other outcomes recorded), 3. The age of victims recorded, either adult (18 years or older) or child (17 years old or younger). For the purposes of this request, 'victim' is a person who has reported having been a victim of this crime.
Reason for referral	Mandatory – please state which subject Requests which name and/or relate to information which MAY originate from any of the S23 bodies.
Specific advice required	As above
Is it a valid request (S8)	Yes
Do you know what information you hold? Please provide as much detail as possible.	For info delete when completing Please provide context on the information held by your force. In most instances this is required to ensure accurate advice is provided. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Is the information retrievable within 18 hours, is s12 a consideration?	YES: ☒ NO: ☐
What views and opinions are held by the FOI team and Business leads?	S23 concerns

Person dealing with request and contact number:	██████████ ██████████
--	---

Produced by Staffordshire Police
for FOI 21974

From: NPCC CRU Mailbox [REDACTED]
Sent: 08 September 2025 15:38
To: Freedom of Information
Subject: CRU 01/CRF/25/005253/G - Modern Slavery - Your ref FOI 21832 Advice will follow in due course

Categories: Allocated to [REDACTED]

Caution: This email originated from outside of the force. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE

POLICE EYES ONLY

Not to be distributed outside of the Police network or other agencies without prior authorisation from the CRU

Dear All,

The below FOI request has now been logged in the CRU. Advice will follow in due course.

Our reference: 01/CRF/25/005253/G
Referred by: Staffordshire Police

The Applicant name is included in the acknowledgement email as a reference for forces only, any future correspondence will only quote the CRU reference number. Please do not duplicate the applicant name in any future correspondence and use only the CRU reference number

Applicant's request:

1. Please provide the number of cases of modern slavery and human trafficking reported to the force for each calendar year between January 1st 2019 and December 31st 2024.
2. Please disaggregate data according to the following information:
The crime outcome of the offences (for example, this includes but is not limited to outcomes such as 'cautioned', 'charged/summonsed', evidential difficulties (victim does not support investigation), no suspect identified, 'Not in public interest (police)', 'Not in public interest (CPS)' and any other outcomes recorded),
3. The age of victims recorded, either adult (18 years or older) or child (17 years old or younger).

For the purposes of this request, 'victim' is a person who has reported having been a victim of this crime.

[why have I put this?](#)

NPFDU FOI Referral Officer

National Police Freedom of Information and Data Protection Unit | National Police Chiefs Council

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
' Via MS Teams

Advanced notification of leave:

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[REDACTED] and to the sender. Please then delete the email and destroy any copies of it. DO NOT use this email address for other enquiries as it will not be responded to, nor any action taken upon it. If you have a non-urgent enquiry, please call the Police non-emergency number 101. If it is an emergency, please call 999. Thank you.

Produced by Staffordshire Police
for FOI 21974

From: NPCC CRU Mailbox [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 September 2025 12:57
Subject: CRU reference - 25/5263/I OR 25/5253/G - Modern Slavery reports and outcomes - Including Advice

Categories: Allocated to [REDACTED]

Caution: This email originated from outside of the force. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE

POLICE EYES ONLY

Not to be distributed outside of the Police network or other agencies without prior authorisation from the CRU

Dear All,

The below FOI request was logged in the CRU. Advice is at the end of this message. Please note, this is 1 request which was incorrectly logged with 2 different reference numbers in the CRU– some forces will have one while others will have the other. This was an administrative error at our end. Please check both our references against your records.

Our reference: 25/5263/I OR 25/5253/G
Referred by: All forces

Applicant's request:

1. Please provide the number of cases of modern slavery and human trafficking reported to the force for each calendar year between January 1st 2019 and December 31st 2024.
2. Please disaggregate data according to the following information:

The crime outcome of the offences (for example, this includes but is not limited to outcomes such as 'cautioned', 'charged/summonsed', evidential difficulties (victim does not support investigation), no suspect identified, 'Not in public interest (police)', 'Not in public interest (CPS)' and any other outcomes recorded),

3. The age of victims recorded, either adult (18 years or older) or child (17 years old or younger).

For the purposes of this request, 'victim' is a person who has reported having been a victim of this crime.

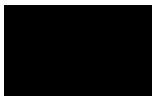
CRU Advice:

As with any request the first consideration should be cost. If to locate and retrieve all the requested information would exceed the cost limits of the act then s12 is recommended to be used. When issuing your refusal notice we recommend you notify the applicant how best to refine their request, if feasible to do so. If cost is not a factor then the following advice applies.

For any information already in the public domain from an official source, s21 can be cited. For any other information disclosure can be considered subject to your own local assessment to ensure no individuals could be identified or ongoing investigations undermined.

Additionally, we have consulted with stakeholders due to the subject matter. They have advised a partial s23(5) NCND should be included within your response. We do not need to see your draft response.

Kind regards



National Freedom of Information Referral Officer
National Police FOI & DP Central Referral Unit (NPFDU)
National Police Chiefs' Council



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From: NPCC CRU Mailbox [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 September 2025 14:42
To: Freedom of Information
Subject: CRU 01/CRF/25/005177/L - Disruptive airline passengers - Your ref FOI 21744
Categories: Allocated to [REDACTED]

Caution: This email originated from outside of the force. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE

POLICE EYES ONLY

Not to be distributed outside of the Police network or other agencies without prior authorisation from the CRU

Dear All,

The below FOI request was logged in the CRU. Advice is at the end of this message.

Our reference: 01/CRF/25/005177/L
Referred by: Staffordshire Police

Applicant's request:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request the following information relating to incidents involving disruptive airline passengers, recorded by your police force over the past 10 years:

1. The total number of recorded incidents involving disruptive airline passengers per year, for the past ten years (i.e., 2015–2024), broken down on a year-by-year basis to account for any variations due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
 2. Of those incidents, the number in which alcohol was identified or flagged as a contributing factor, again broken down annually.
 3. The number of disruptive passenger-related incidents that resulted in arrests, presented year by year.
- This request specifically relates to incidents at airports or onboard aircraft within your jurisdiction, or otherwise handled by your force under aviation or public order legislation.

If any part of this request exceeds the cost threshold, please advise on how it can be refined to remain within the limits.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you need clarification.

I look forward to your response within the statutory 20 working days.

CRU Advice:

Thank you for your business area comments that there are no main airports within your jurisdiction, however we have not received any further updates on if you hold the information requested at the smaller airfields within your jurisdiction and therefore are unable to accurately advise on this for you.

A quick PD search would indicate that there are several airfields within Staffordshire's jurisdiction, these are the ones we could see immediately but there are likely to be more:

Otherton Airfield
Tatenhill Airfield

Wheaton Aston Airfield
Seighford Airfield
Teddlesley Park
Battlestead Hill
Abbotts Bromley
Alrewas

There is a possibility that to search over a 10 year period for each of these airfields to determine if any incidents have been recorded as involving disruptive passengers, and then also out of those determine which ones may have been flagged as alcohol related plus those that resulted in an arrest, could possibly take this over cost. If this is the case then we see no harm in a s12 refusal, and under guidance and assistance to explain to the applicant that there are no major airports within Staffordshire for their awareness and also that to come in under cost to consider decreasing the time frame for the other airfields.

If you need any further advice please let us know.

Kind Regards

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[why have I put this?](#)

NPFDU FOI Referral Officer

National Police Freedom of Information and Data Protection Unit | National Police Chiefs Council

[Redacted]

' Via MS Teams

Advanced notification of leave:

[Redacted]

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[REDACTED]

From: NPCC CRU Mailbox [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 September 2025 15:18
To: Freedom of Information
Subject: RE: STAFFORDSHIRE REFERRAL FORM

Categories: Allocated to [REDACTED]

Caution: This email originated from outside of the force. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi [REDACTED]

Logged under 5258/25. Advice in due course.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

From: Freedom of Information <foi@staffordshire.police.uk>
Sent: 09 September 2025 14:45
To: NPCC CRU Mailbox [REDACTED]
Subject: STAFFORDSHIRE REFERRAL FORM

Afternoon

Please see the attached completed referral form for Staffordshire.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

Freedom of Information Team within the Information Access Team

Deputy Chief Constable Command
Information Governance and Assurance



Staffordshire Police

This e-mail message is intended solely for the person to whom it is addressed and may contain information of a confidential or legally privileged nature which should not be disclosed. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender immediately and delete the message and any attachments or copies. Any unauthorised use, disclosure, review, re-transmission, dissemination or other use of, or taking action in reliance upon, this message by persons or entities other than the

intended recipient is strictly prohibited. The information contained in this e-mail, and in your reply, may be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or other legislation and confidentiality cannot be guaranteed. Any views or opinions expressed in this e-mail are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of Staffordshire Police. All Staffordshire Police email activity is monitored for virus, racist, obscene, or otherwise inappropriate activity. No responsibility is accepted by Staffordshire Police for any loss or damage arising in any way from the receipt or use of this email.

www.staffordshire.police.uk

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Produced by Staffordshire Police
for FOI 21972

NPFDU CRU Referral Guidance and Form

In order for the NPFDU CRU to deliver its remit, forces and partners must refer certain requests so the unit can centrally assess. Please carefully read the following to allow the team to respond as promptly and as accurately as possible.

All mandatory referrals and requests for specific disclosure advice must come via a completed referral form emailed to [REDACTED] Please note incomplete forms will be returned.

- Mandatory referrals take priority and will be prioritised over general advice questions. The unit must ensure mandatory referral advice is in line with national guidance and respond promptly to enable forces to do similar.
- In addition to these mandatory referrals, any FOI/EIR requests that require specific disclosure and/or technical advice can be sent to the above email address with a completed form.
- Once an FOI referral has been received, we will generate an e-mail which will confirm its URN. This message may also contain further instructions which must be complied with before further guidance can be issued.
- Any request referred must not be answered until a final response has been received from the NPFDU CRU, unless otherwise stated from the team. If your force is considering making a disclosure prior to advice being issued or if it does not intend to follow national guidance, please make contact as soon as possible.
- The team aim to respond within the SLA of 10 working days, if the team are unable to, you will be notified. The team cannot prioritise a referral because it has been sent in late from a force. Please use our drop in sessions if appropriate.

Please note some additional questions have been added to the referral form below. It is important these are answered in as much detail as possible. If not, or left blank, the team will return the form and ask for further information before responding. This will assist the NPFDU in providing informative, consistent and accurate advice in a timely manner and to prevent delays to our service.

It is encouraged that general advice on the referral process or a simple FOI/EIR technical query is best resolved via a call to the team on [REDACTED] (works via MS Teams also) or attend a weekly drop in session on Tuesday or Thursday anytime between 11am-1130am via this MS Teams Link.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

The Team may still request a referral form after initial consultation.

Mandatory Referrals-By Subject Area	
Subject	Further Detail
Witness protection/protected persons.	Ultra high risk subject area which must be referred to CRU.
Requests which name and/or relate to information which MAY originate from any of the S23 bodies.	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Covert operations, use of informants or surveillance activities or tactics.	Ultra high risk subject area which must be referred to CRU.
New programmes or software products such as Data Platforms/systems/tools for operational purposes.	Requests relating to operational products (whether being piloted, trialled or implemented or not), including engagement with new software companies that predominately handle big data such as 'Briefcam', 'Palantir'. Referrals are not required for back office functions such as AI Chatbot, crime prediction tools etc. If known please inform the CRU of the operational context of the product e.g. AI analysing digital evidence
Counter terrorism (incl Prevent, Pursue, Protect, Prepare) and/or national security material or operations.	Includes SB, CTU, CBRN, port or airport operations, Crowded Spaces and ANPR.
VIP/Royalty Protection.	To include high profile Royal events and visits.
Information received from or which relates to certain partner agencies. <i>Referral only required once established information is captured by the request.*</i>	Includes NPCC, any government department, IOPC, CPS and College of Policing.
Major or complex incidents or major investigations or operations.*	Examples such as extremist protests, <u>large</u> scale public disorder, multiple or high profile unexplained deaths, cross border incidents. Will also include national operations and Inquiries. Please contact the CRU if unsure. <i>Local investigations/operations do not need referring.</i>
International Relations	Includes international training, visiting overseas dignitaries & FCO equities where s27 may be engaged.
National Security	Requests requiring s24 will need stakeholder consideration
Notification of ICO complaint, First Tier Tribunal or Upper Tribunal activity	
Requests with potentially significant reputational implications, e.g. the storage of human tissue.	Where national policing leads would welcome the opportunity to comment on high profile matters (if unsure please contact the CRU)
Requests for information held for the purpose of a statutory Inquiry under the Inquiries Act 2005	Examples – UCPI, Manchester Arena, Death of Dawn Sturgess, Grenfell

***If a request is captured by previous NPFDU guidance within the past 12 months, then no referral is required.**

Temporary Mandatory Referrals	
Subject	Date added
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	

There is no requirement to refer if the information requested is already officially published 'Officially published' includes, MAPPA reports and websites such as OSC, The College of Policing, NPCC, Government, IOPC, PCC, Police.UK or Force websites, or documents already marked as suitable for publication under FOIA 2000.

NPFDU CRU Referral Form

PLEASE COMPLETE ALL THE BELOW FIELDS TO ENSURE ACCURATE & TIMELY ADVICE, IT IS GREATLY APPRECIATED. THANK YOU

Force reference number:	21833
Date request received:	08/09/2025
Type of request:	Initial ☒ Internal ☐ Review Appeal ☐ Tribunal ☐ (delete as appropriate) If at IR or appeal stage please provide sight of previous responses and requestors comments.
Applicants Name for reference	██████████
Actual wording of request	Please could I request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act, which I am asking of every police force in the UK: 1. The number of group-based child sexual exploitation offences recorded by the force for each of the past three calendar years (Or if this data has not been recorded, the number of child sexual abuse offences, flagged as child sexual exploitation, for each of the past three calendar years) 2. The total number of alleged victims involved in these offences for each of the past three calendar years. 3. The number of requests the force has made to Snapchat (Snap Inc) for account data/records, as part of investigations into group-based child sexual exploitation investigations (or CSA investigations flagged as CSE) for each of the past three calendar years.
Reason for referral	Mandatory – Child Sexual Exploitation
Specific advice required	Mandatory referral
Is it a valid request (S8)	Yes
Do you know what information you hold? Please provide as much detail as possible.	Contacted data holder re question 3. Question 1 and 2 may be Section 12 but unsure at the moment.
Is the information retrievable within 18 hours, is s12 a consideration?	YES: ☐ NO: ☐
What views and opinions are held by the FOI team and Business leads?	Usual concerns regarding CSE topic.
Person dealing with request and contact number:	██████████

[REDACTED]

From: NPCC CRU Mailbox [REDACTED]
Sent: 16 September 2025 11:16
To: Freedom of Information
Subject: RE: CRU reference: 01/CRF/25/005258/L - Your reference: FOI/1435 - CSE Offences - Request logged - Advice to Follow

Categories: Allocated to [REDACTED]

Caution: This email originated from outside of the force. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Morning [REDACTED]

They were duplicate requests so as advice has now been given under 5255/I and the case closed.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
Management Assistant
National Police Freedom of Information and Data Protection Unit
National Police Chiefs' Council
[REDACTED]



From: Freedom of Information <foi@staffordshire.police.uk>
Sent: 11 September 2025 16:47
To: NPCC CRU Mailbox [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: CRU reference: 01/CRF/25/005258/L - Your reference: FOI/1435 - CSE Offences - Request logged - Advice to Follow

Hi [REDACTED]

We did receive advice for this request today. Is this completed now or do we need to wait for 01/CRF/25/005255/I?

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

Freedom of Information Team within the Information Access Team

Deputy Chief Constable Command
Information Governance and Assurance

Staffordshire Police

From: NPCC CRU Mailbox [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 September 2025 15:47
To: 'Metropolitan FOI (MPSDDataOffice@met.police.uk)' <mpsdataoffice@met.police.uk>;
freedom.info@northumbria.police.uk; Freedom of Information <foi@staffordshire.police.uk>
Subject: FW: CRU reference: 01/CRF/25/005258/L - Your reference: FOI/1435 - CSE Offences - Request logged - Advice to Follow

Caution: This email originated from outside of the force. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear All,

Please be aware case number 01/CRF/25/005258/L has been closed, and advice will follow on 01/CRF/25/005255/L.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
Management Assistant
National Police Freedom of Information and Data Protection Unit
National Police Chiefs' Council



National Police
Freedom of Information
and Data Protection Unit

From: NPCC CRU Mailbox
Sent: 09 September 2025 13:03
To: 'Northumbria FOI (freedom.info@northumbria.police.uk)' <freedom.info@northumbria.police.uk>
Subject: CRU reference: 01/CRF/25/005258/L - Your reference: FOI/1435 - CSE Offences - Request logged - Advice to Follow

Dear [REDACTED]

The below FOI request was logged in the CRU earlier today. Advice will follow in due course.

Our reference: 01/CRF/25/005258/L
Referred by: Metropolitan Police Service, Northumbria Police
Sent from: [REDACTED]

The Applicant name is included in the acknowledgement email as a reference for forces only, any future correspondence will only quote the CRU reference number. Please do not duplicate the applicant name in any future correspondence and use only the CRU reference number

Applicant's request:

1. The number of group-based child sexual exploitation offences recorded by the force for each of the past three calendar years (Or if this data has not been recorded, the number of child sexual abuse offences, flagged as child sexual exploitation, for each of the past three calendar years)
2. The total number of alleged victims involved in these offences for each of the past three calendar years.
3. The number of requests the force has made to Snapchat (Snap Inc) for account data/records, as part of investigations into group-based child sexual exploitation investigations (or CSA investigations flagged as CSE) for each of the past three calendar years.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
Management Assistant
National Police Freedom of Information and Data Protection Unit
National Police Chiefs' Council



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Produced by Staffordshire Police
for FOI 21974

[REDACTED]

From: NPCC CRU Mailbox [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 September 2025 15:40
To: foi@dorset.pnn.police.uk; foi@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk; Northumbria; MPSDataOffice@met.police.uk; Freedom of Information
Subject: : CRU 01/CRF/25/005255/I - Child sexual exploitation offences - Your Ref 25/3706 - advice

Categories: Allocated to [REDACTED]

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OFFICIAL - SENSITIVE

POLICE EYES ONLY

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Dear All,

The below FOI request was logged in the CRU on 08/9/25. Advice is at the end of this message.

Our reference: 01/CRF/25/005255/I

Referred by: Dorset

Applicant's request:

1. The number of group-based child sexual exploitation offences recorded by the force for each of the past three calendar years (Or if this data has not been recorded, the number of child sexual abuse offences, flagged as child sexual exploitation, for each of the past three calendar years)
2. The total number of alleged victims involved in these offences for each of the past three calendar years.
3. The number of requests the force has made to Snapchat (Snap Inc) for account data/records, as part of investigations into group-based child sexual exploitation investigations (or CSA investigations flagged as CSE) for each of the past three calendar years.

CRU Advice:

The below advice is on the assumption information can be retrieved within cost limits.

Disclosure can be considered as annual totals for questions 1-3 following a local assessment that individuals cannot be identified or investigations undermined. In addition [REDACTED] have requested the inclusion of a partial NCND s23(5).

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
Deputy Manager
National Police Freedom of Information and Data Protection Unit (NPFDU)

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

(NB: Monday is a non-work day)



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Produced by Staffordshire Police
for FOI 21414

From: NPCC CRU Mailbox [REDACTED]
Sent: 23 September 2025 08:39
To: Freedom of Information
Subject: RE: CRU reference: 01/CRF/25/005287/Q - AI-enabled policing platforms - Request logged - Advice to Follow

Categories: Allocated to [REDACTED]

Caution: This email originated from outside of the force. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Morning [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email. The case has been updated.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
Management Assistant
National Police Freedom of Information and Data Protection Unit
National Police Chiefs' Council
[REDACTED]



From: Freedom of Information <foi@staffordshire.police.uk>
Sent: 23 September 2025 07:20
To: NPCC CRU Mailbox [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: CRU reference: 01/CRF/25/005287/Q - AI-enabled policing platforms - Request logged - Advice to Follow

23/09 – Please add to case and ack

Morning

Just to let you know the applicant has slightly amended their request which has replaced the original wording, please see below:

I am writing to request information under the FOIA which relates to predictive analytics, data intelligence or AI-enabled profiling that have been in trial, development, or deployment at any point in 2025.

1. Copies of any portfolio, project listing, reports, presentations, or internal summaries relating to the above that are currently, or have been, in development, trial, or operation within this police force, or its associated ROCU.
2. Where available, details of:
 - o The name or description of each project
 - o The units or departments involved
 - o External collaborators (contractors, researchers, consultants, etc.)

- o The intended purpose or application of the technology
- o The status (e.g. research, pilot, deployment, discontinued)
- o Any funding source (Home Office, NPCC, or other)

Kind regards

Freedom of Information Team within the Information Access Team

Deputy Chief Constable Command
Information Governance and Assurance



Staffordshire Police

From: NPCC CRU Mailbox [REDACTED]
Sent: 16 September 2025 12:19
Subject: CRU reference: 01/CRF/25/005287/Q - AI-enabled policing platforms - Request logged - Advice to Follow

Caution: This email originated from outside of the force. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear All,

The below FOI request has now been logged in the CRU and will be treated as a national request. Advice will be sent to all forces in due course.

Please note we do not require confirmation that it has been received by your force.

Our reference: 01/CRF/25/005287/Q
Referred by: PSNI (FOI/15760)
Sent from: [REDACTED]

The Applicant name is included in the acknowledgement email as a reference for forces only, any future correspondence will only quote the CRU reference number. Please do not duplicate the applicant name in any future correspondence and use only the CRU reference number

Applicant's request:

I am writing to request information under the FOIA which relates to AI-enabled policing projects (including but not limited to machine learning, predictive analytics, or natural language processing) that have been in trial, development, or deployment at any point in 2025.

1) Copies of any portfolio, project listing, reports, presentations, or internal summaries relating to AI-enabled projects (including but not limited to machine learning, predictive analytics, natural language processing, or facial recognition technologies) that are currently in development, trial, or operation within this police force, or its associated ROCU.

2) Where available, details of:

- a) The name or description of each project
- b) The units or departments involved
- c) External collaborators (contractors, researchers, consultants, etc.)
- d) The intended purpose or application of the technology
- e) The status (e.g. research, pilot, deployment, discontinued)
- f) Any funding source (Home Office, NPCC, or other)

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
Management Assistant

National Police Freedom of Information and Data Protection Unit
National Police Chiefs' Council



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www.staffordshire.police.uk

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Produced by Staffordshire Police
for FOI 21974

From: Freedom of Information <foi@staffordshire.police.uk>
Sent: 18 September 2025 13:49
To: NPCC CRU Mailbox
Subject: RE: CRU ref: 25/5194/M - DVI - Including Advice
Attachments: FOI 21776 Disaster Victim Identification.docx

Afternoon

We do not believe that this will be a Section 12 for Staffordshire, please see the attached draft response. I will apply a PIT extension.

Kind regards

Freedom of Information Team within the Information Access Team

Deputy Chief Constable Command
Information Governance and Assurance



Staffordshire Police

From: NPCC CRU Mailbox
Sent: 18 September 2025 13:25
Subject: CRU ref: 25/5194/M - DVI - Including Advice

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OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE

POLICE EYES ONLY

Not to be distributed outside of the Police network or other agencies without prior authorisation from the CRU
Dear All,

The below FOI request was logged in the CRU. Advice is at the end of this message.
Our reference: 25/5194/M
Referred by: National

[Applicant's request:](#)

I would like to request the following information relating to Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) provision within your force.

- Where possible, please provide total counts disaggregated by gender where this information is recorded. I generally expect yes/no responses, but any additional context would be gratefully appreciated.
- 1. Staffing and Deployment
- * The number of officers/staff currently trained in DVI within your force (please indicate gender if recorded).
- * The number of DVI-trained officers/staff deployed in the last five years, and the categories of incidents they were deployed to (please group as: terrorism, transport incidents, industrial accidents, and natural disasters) - total numbers only, to preserve anonymity.
- * Which department or unit within the force is responsible for DVI planning and deployment.
- * The typical length of service an officer/staff member remains active on the DVI roster once trained (e.g., average number of years, or whether there is a set term).
- * Whether your force applies any suitability checks or criteria prior to deployment of DVI-trained officers (e.g., health, psychological readiness, or operational availability).

CRU Advice:

Following consultation with the policing lead, we have been advised that this request is likely to exceed the cost limits of the act. Question 2 specifically asks for information which the national leads feel will not be held in a readily retrievable format. To locate and retrieve all this information, a manual check of every incident will be required to establish if DVI trained officers have been deployed and further, how many. Given the scope of incidents to which a DVI trained officer may be deployed and the timeframe of the request, it is felt that this manual review will exceed 18 hours of work and thus s12 will be applicable. As all questions in the request are on materially similar subject matter, where s12 applies to one question it can be applied to the request as a whole.

At this stage we therefore advise s12 is relevant. In providing this response, we recommend you offer advice and assistance where you see fit.

If s12 is not relevant to your force, please provide us with the information you hold and any comments from your force teams on suitability for disclosure and we will then refer back to the policing lead for further views. In this instance, and given further consultation will be required, we recommend you PIT extend the request where possible. A form of words is below if it assists.

PIT wording:

'The FOI Act obliges a public authority to respond to requests promptly and in any case no later than 20 working days after receiving your request. The first consideration is whether we can comply with s1(1)(a) of the Act, which is our duty to confirm whether or not the information requested is held, secondly we must comply with s1(1)(b), which is the provision of such information. However, when a qualified exemption applies either to the confirmation, or denial or to the information itself, and the public interest test is engaged, section 17(2) of the Act allows the time for responding to be extended to longer than 20 working days, if the balance of such public interest is yet to be determined.

In this case we have not yet reached a decision on where the balance of the public interest lies in respect of either of the above obligations. We estimate that it will take an additional [xx] days to take a decision on where this balance lies. Therefore, we plan to let you have a response by [date]. If it appears that it will take longer than this to reach a conclusion, you will be kept informed.

The specific exemption(s) which apply in relation to your request is/are: [include a brief explanation of why it/they apply unless it is not apparent or unless you are not required to do so by virtue of s17(4)].

Insert usual complaint information.'

Kind regards

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

National Freedom of Information Referral Officer
National Police FOI & DP Central Referral Unit (NPFDU)
National Police Chiefs' Council

[Redacted]



[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[REDACTED]

S31 Harm and PIT wording

Evidence of Harm:

The police service is charged with enforcing the law, preventing and detecting crime and protecting the communities we serve. The release of any operational capability in terms of numbers of trained DVI personnel could undermine that position. Whilst not questioning the motives of any one applicant that may request this information, it must be appreciated that a release under FOI is a disclosure to the world.

DVI is a specialism held by many police forces across the country, in numbers sufficient that in the event of a disaster on the largest scale that sufficient DVI trained personnel can respond.

However, disclosure of the exact number of DVI trained personnel currently in the force would undermine operational capability, providing those that would seek to commit criminal acts, information as to the current police DVI resources

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

National Freedom of Information Referral Officer
National Police FOI & DP Central Referral Unit (NPFDU)
National Police Chiefs' Council

[REDACTED]



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18th September 2025

FOI Ref 21776

Request - You asked us the following:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request the following information relating to Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) provision within your force.

Where possible, please provide total counts disaggregated by gender where this information is recorded. I generally expect yes/no responses, but any additional context would be gratefully appreciated.

1. Staffing and Deployment

* The number of officers/staff currently trained in DVI within your force (please indicate gender if recorded).

* The number of DVI-trained officers/staff deployed in the last five years, and the categories of incidents they were deployed to (please group as: terrorism, transport incidents, industrial accidents, and natural disasters) - total numbers only, to preserve anonymity.

* Which department or unit within the force is responsible for DVI planning and deployment.

* The typical length of service an officer/staff member remains active on the DVI roster once trained (e.g., average number of years, or whether there is a set term).

* Whether your force applies any suitability checks or criteria prior to deployment of DVI-trained officers (e.g., health, psychological readiness, or operational availability).

We received your request on 21/08/2025 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.

- Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request the following information relating to Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) provision within your force.
- Where possible, please provide total counts disaggregated by gender where this information is recorded. I generally expect yes/no responses, but any additional context would be gratefully appreciated.

1. Staffing and Deployment

* The number of officers/staff currently trained in DVI within your force (please indicate gender if recorded). – [REDACTED]

* The number of DVI-trained officers/staff deployed in the last five years, and the categories of incidents they were deployed to (please group as: terrorism, transport incidents, industrial accidents, and natural disasters) - total numbers only, to preserve anonymity. – **Partially disclosed, there has been no major incident deployments. There has been 14 Officers deployed to** [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] This data is only held for the previous two years.



- * Which department or unit within the force is responsible for DVI planning and deployment.
– **Disclosed, Major and Organised Crime Department.**
- * The typical length of service an officer/staff member remains active on the DVI roster once trained (e.g., average number of years, or whether there is a set term). – **No information held, it is dependent on Officer/staff willingness to volunteer for DVI.**
- * Whether your force applies any suitability checks or criteria prior to deployment of DVI-trained officers (e.g., health, psychological readiness, or operational availability). – **Disclosed, yes, suitability checks in conjunction with Occupational Health and national criteria are applied;**
Prior to initial training: Immunisation, physical and psychological
During term [review period 24 months]: Immunisation & psychological
Pre deployment: Immunisation check & psychological
Post deployment: Immunisation check & psychological

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:

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

[REDACTED]

From: NPCC CRU Mailbox [REDACTED]
Sent: 19 September 2025 12:51
Subject: CRU ref: 25/5194/M - DVI - Acknowledgement of receipt of information held
Categories: Allocated to [REDACTED]

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OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE

POLICE EYES ONLY

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Good afternoon,

Thank you for providing the information you hold for the above referenced case. I have informed the policing lead s12 is not relevant to your force and asked for further consultation, specifically on questions 1 & 2.

As soon as they respond, further advice will be formulated and circulated.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

National Freedom of Information Referral Officer
National Police FOI & DP Central Referral Unit (NPFDU)
National Police Chiefs' Council

[REDACTED]



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[REDACTED] and to the sender. Please then delete the email and destroy any copies of it. DO NOT use this email address for other enquiries as it will not be responded to, nor any action taken upon it. If you have a non-urgent enquiry, please call the Police non-emergency number 101. If it is an emergency, please call 999. Thank you.

Produced by Staffordshire Police
for FOI 21974

[REDACTED]

From: NPCC CRU Mailbox [REDACTED]
Sent: 20 September 2025 12:07
Subject: FW: CRU ref: 25/5194/M - DVI - wording error on original advice - clarification
Categories: Allocated to [REDACTED]

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POLICE EYES ONLY

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Good morning all,

In reference to the below advice circulation, it has been brought to my attention that some information was included at the very end of the email which should not have been, and that its inclusion has caused some confusion.

For clarification, none of the information beyond the first signature block should have been included on the advice. These were initial draft lines and information intended for the policing lead consultation only – they are not for forces to use. Please therefore disregard these lines entirely.

Sincere apologies that this was not picked up before the advice was issued and for any confusion it has caused.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

National Freedom of Information Referral Officer
National Police FOI & DP Central Referral Unit (NPFDU)
National Police Chiefs' Council



[REDACTED]

OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE

From: NPCC CRU Mailbox [REDACTED]
Sent: 23 September 2025 07:55
Cc: 'Freedom of Information'; 'Freedom of Information (Surrey)'; Freedom of Information
Subject: OS - CRU 25/5241
Categories: Allocated to [REDACTED]

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Dear All,

Our reference: 01/CRF/25/005241/C
Referred by: Northamptonshire, Staffordshire, Surrey

Applicant's request:

- 1) Has this police force ever requested or collected biometric data—such as fingerprints, photographs, or videos—from an educational establishment or an educational supplier? This pertains to educational institutions from Nursery through Year 13 and excludes institutions for students beyond Year 13.
- 2) If the answer to question 1 is yes, please specify the types of biometric data obtained (e.g., fingerprints, photographs), the number of individuals involved, and whether this data was shared with any other entities such as Prevent.
- 3) If the answer to question 1 is yes, have any convictions been secured based on data obtained from a school biometric database?
- 4) If the answer to question 1 is yes, has any biometric data been added to the police database? If so, please provide the number of data subjects' biometric records added each year.

If this Freedom of Information request exceeds Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act, please prioritize your response to question 1, or questions 1 and 2, as these are my primary data interests. Please provide as much data as possible from the present extending into the past, within the constraints of Section 12. I would appreciate the data in the most cost-effective and convenient format for your response.

CRU Advice:

It is likely that it would exceed Cost trying to establish that any information is held whatsoever. That said, my interpretation of this request is that the applicant envisages the police being provided bulk biometric data from educational institutions, which is a scenario I feel is not one that the police would contemplate doing?

In conclusion a factual answer to the effect that the police wouldn't hold such information in this scenario is probably the most pragmatic route. But please take advice from your in-force experts beforehand.

Please let us know if we can assist further.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
Freedom of Information Referral Officer
National Police Freedom of Information and Data Protection Unit
National Police Chiefs Council



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Produced by [REDACTED] for FOI [REDACTED] for Staffordshire Police

From: NPCC CRU Mailbox [REDACTED]
Sent: 26 September 2025 15:40
Subject: RE: CRU 01/CRF/25/005143/B - Human Trafficking - Further Advice included
Categories: Allocated to [REDACTED]

Caution: This email originated from outside of the force. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE

POLICE EYES ONLY

Not to be distributed outside of the Police network or other agencies without prior authorisation from the CRU

Dear All,
The below FOI request was logged in the CRU. Advice is at the end of this message.

Our reference: 01/CRF/25/005143/B

Applicant's request:

I am writing an article for spark news that is attached to our university highlighting the world of Human Trafficking and all that it reveals in the UK. Additionally for my final assignment an investigation on Human Trafficking in the UK.

I would like to know where the people who have been involved in Human Trafficking are from originally (That have been arrested and charged in the UK) Under the Modern Slavery Act 2015 Period 2020-2025.

Secondly victims, where is their original country and their ages Period 2020-2025.

I do realise that this is sensitive data, and I do not want to know their address, just the country they are from, as I am compiling a list of countries that these crimes originate and the question has never been answered.

As I am sure this is a very delicate topic and I appreciate your views and discretion but would like comments on the current situation please in the UK, additionally what are the thoughts as a force in the UK.

15/08/25 - Clarified request from Warwickshire:

Q1. The number of suspects arrested and charged with the below crimes between 2020 and 2024, for the below offences (linked to the Modern Slavery Act 2015), broken down by ethnicity

036/06 Hold person in slavery or servitude Modern Slavery Act 2015

036/07 Require person to perform forced or compulsory labour Modern Slavery Act 2015

036/08 Arrange or facilitate travel of another person with a view to exploitation Modern Slavery Act 2015
036/10 Commit offence other than kidnapping or false imprisonment with intention of arranging travel with view to exploitation Modern Slavery Act 2015
036/11 Commit offence of kidnapping or false imprisonment with intention of arranging travel with view to exploitation Modern Slavery Act 2015
036/12 Do act prohibited by slavery and trafficking risk or prevention order Modern Slavery Act 2015
036/13 Fail to comply with requirement to surrender passport under Modern Slavery Act 2015 Modern Slavery Act 2015
036/14 Fail to comply with requirement to provide name and address under Modern Slavery Act 2015 Modern Slavery Act 2015

Q2. The number of victims recorded in the above crimes (linked to the Modern Slavery Act 2015) recorded in the period 2020 to 2024, broken down by victim ethnicity and age group

CRU Advice:

Thank you for holding back on your responses while we just added a few things to this advice for you.

Firstly, a reminder that unless your force is in receipt of the same clarification, the refined request to Warwickshire is only relevant to that force.

Secondly, for this section of the request 'As I am sure this is a very delicate topic and I appreciate your views and discretion but would like comments on the current situation please in the UK, additionally what are the thoughts as a force in the UK', we would say that this is not a valid FOI question.

Dealing with the original request

The applicant first asks to know where people who have been **arrested and charged** for HT from 2015 onwards, have come from (as in their country of origin or nationality). The request does not seek any greater detail than that, and it only relates to those who were **both arrested and charged**. As such (and putting Cost to one side), practitioners could end up with a simple list of countries, which is harmless I would say.

The applicant then asks the same about victims of HT and their ages between 2020-2025. If information is held it would require local assessment s31(1) and s40(2). Our advice with these types of crime stats is for each force to do its own assessment as to whether an individual could be identified, or there is a risk to law enforcement if revealing the nationalities and ages undermines an investigation, for example, because it shows that the police are involved which would alert outstanding offenders. However, when you consider that it relates to the first question where persons would have been arrested and charged, the likelihood of s31 is greatly diminished. But s40(2) is still a consideration.

Dealing with the clarified request to Warwickshire

Q1 – The question concerns persons arrested and charged, but now focuses on their **ethnicity**, which is likely to be a self-identification category and might not correlate with their country of origin. This changes the data entirely from the original request as ethnicity refers to characteristics that are different to the geographical location of where an individual was born.

But all they seek is ethnicity data, and nothing more. Again, subject primarily to s40(2) we see no immediate issue with this data.

Q2 – This question is slightly odd. The applicant has provided a list of crime types, but the question concerns the number victims per crime, not criminals. For example, the request asks that research is done in to code 036/06 for all crimes between 2020-2024, to identify the number of victims, their age at the time, and their ethnicity. Putting Cost to one side, the results across all the crimes listed could reveal information that is relevant to the same victim or victims. In other words, a person could be a victim of one of more of those listed crimes.

The risk here is that raw data could present a false narrative that there are more victims than is true. As such, practitioners should be alert to this and add an explanation accordingly. However, disclosure should only be given once you are satisfied that no one can be identified as a result, and that it would not impact law enforcement by a) undermining any live investigation, or b) damage your forces ability to engage with victims of crime who would otherwise fear that they could be identified. In brief, the weight of public interest sits in favour of protecting the identities of victims of crime.

The likelihood of low numbers will likely be concerning.

What if No Information Is Held? We don't see an immediate reason to state NCND, and the older the data is, the less likelihood of harm. In the unlikely event that your force holds a ZERO as recorded information, then No Information Held is the response.

But where the total is less than 5, practitioners may wish to consider using the Less than 5 rule in concert with exempting the information under s40. This is entirely subject to local assessment as each force is going to have their own local factors to consider.

Finally...

At stakeholder request, if your force is disclosing information for the original or refined request, please add a partial NCND s23(5). A partial NCND is not required for a No Information Held response.

We welcome sight of draft responses accordingly.

If you need any further advice, please let us know.

Kind regards

[Redacted]

[Redacted] [why have I put this?](#)

NPFDU FOI Referral Officer

National Police Freedom of Information and Data Protection Unit | National Police Chiefs Council

[Redacted]

' Via MS Teams

Advanced notification of leave:

From: NPCC CRU Mailbox

Sent: 25 September 2025 09:29

Subject: RE: CRU 01/CRF/25/005143/B - Human Trafficking - Advice included

OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE

POLICE EYES ONLY

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Good morning all,

We have just been re-assessing this case that was sent out first thing this morning and although the information will in essence be the same and locally assess s31 and s40 and a partial NCND s23, we would like to add some further information to this. Please hold fire on your responses and an updated reply from us will be with you later today.

Thank you

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[why have I put this?](#)

NPFDU FOI Referral Officer

National Police Freedom of Information and Data Protection Unit | National Police Chiefs Council

[REDACTED]

' Via MS Teams

Advanced notification of leave:

From: NPCC CRU Mailbox

Sent: 25 September 2025 06:54

Subject: CRU 01/CRF/25/005143/B - Human Trafficking - Advice included

OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE

POLICE EYES ONLY

Not to be distributed outside of the Police network or other agencies without prior authorisation from the CRU

Dear All,

The below FOI request was logged in the CRU. Advice is at the end of this message.

Our reference: 01/CRF/25/005143/B

Referred by: Staffordshire Police, Greater Manchester Police, Devon and Cornwall Constabulary, Warwickshire Police

Applicant's request:

I am writing an article for spark news that is attached to our university highlighting the world of Human Trafficking and all that it reveals in the UK. Additionally for my final assignment an

investigation on Human Trafficking in the UK.

I would like to know where the people who have been involved in Human Trafficking are from originally (That have been arrested and charged in the UK) Under the Modern Slavery Act 2015 Period 2020-2025.

Secondly victims, where is their original country and their ages Period 2020-2025.

I do realise that this is sensitive data, and I do not want to know their address, just the country they are from, as I am compiling a list of countries that these crimes originate and the question has never been answered.

As I am sure this is a very delicate topic and I appreciate your views and discretion but would like comments on the current situation please in the UK, additionally what are the thoughts as a force in the UK.

15/08/25 - Clarified request from Warwickshire:

Q1. The number of suspects arrested and charged with the below crimes between 2020 and 2024, for the below offences (linked to the Modern Slavery Act 2015), broken down by ethnicity

036/06 Hold person in slavery or servitude Modern Slavery Act 2015

036/07 Require person to perform forced or compulsory labour Modern Slavery Act 2015

036/08 Arrange or facilitate travel of another person with a view to exploitation Modern Slavery Act 2015

036/10 Commit offence other than kidnapping or false imprisonment with intention of arranging travel with view to exploitation Modern Slavery Act 2015

036/11 Commit offence of kidnapping or false imprisonment with intention of arranging travel with view to exploitation Modern Slavery Act 2015

036/12 Do act prohibited by slavery and trafficking risk or prevention order Modern Slavery Act 2015

036/13 Fail to comply with requirement to surrender passport under Modern Slavery Act 2015 Modern Slavery Act 2015

036/14 Fail to comply with requirement to provide name and address under Modern Slavery Act 2015 Modern Slavery Act 2015

Q2. The number of victims recorded in the above crimes (linked to the Modern Slavery Act 2015) recorded in the period 2020 to 2024, broken down by victim ethnicity and age group

CRU Advice:

Thank you for your patience as we waited for stakeholder views to come back on this case.

For this section of the request 'As I am sure this is a very delicate topic and I appreciate your views and discretion but would like comments on the current situation please in the UK, additionally what are the thoughts as a force in the UK', we would say that this is not a valid FOI question.

We do feel that disclosure could be considered with the country of origin and ages if the information is locally assessed and placed into separate uncorrelated charts, such as one for ages but break it down in to age ranges such as 18-25, 25-35 and a separate chart for the country origins to avoid piecing together an age with a country of origin.

For the further breakdown we would advise to engage s23 for security bodies that may be involved here.

If possible, please send us your final response for the stakeholder's records.

If you need any further advice, please let us know.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[why have I put this?\)](#)

NPFDU FOI Referral Officer

National Police Freedom of Information and Data Protection Unit | National Police Chiefs Council

[REDACTED]

' Via MS Teams

Advanced notification of leave:

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Produced by [REDACTED] for [REDACTED] Police

From: Freedom of Information

Sent: 29 September 2025 08:09

To: NPCC CRU Mailbox

Subject: RE: CRU 01/CRF/25/005143/B - Human Trafficking - Further Advice included

Hi [REDACTED]

If we have not received the clarified request, and are planning to disclose the nationalities of those arrested and charged, and age group bands of victims, is the S23(5) to be included in our response, or is this only for the clarified request received by Warwickshire? Also, would you like to see our drafts prior to release?

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Freedom of Information Team within the Information Access Team

Deputy Chief Constable Command
Information Governance and Assurance



Staffordshire Police

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email.

Yes at the stakeholder's request, if your force is disclosing information for the original or refined request, please add a partial NCND s23(5).

The partial NCND would not be required if it were a No Information Held response only.

Yes please to your draft.

Hope that helps?

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

[why have I put this?\)](#)

NPFDU FOI Referral Officer

National Police Freedom of Information and Data Protection Unit | National Police Chiefs Council

[REDACTED]

' Via MS Teams

Advanced notification of leave:

RE: CRU 01/CRF/25/005143/B - Human Trafficking - Further Advice included



Freedom of Information <foi@staffordshire.police.uk>

To NPCC CRU Mailbox

Retention Policy 2 Year Email Retention (2 years)



OFFICIAL

Expires 30/09/2027

Reply

Reply All

Forward



Tue 30/09/2025 13:38

Thanks

We are planning to issue a S12 response initially, but we are going to offer amended dates in refinement. Would the S12 response need to be sent to yourselves? The refined response (if the applicant requests it) would be sent to yourselves as a draft and the partial NCND applied as requested.

Kind regards,

Freedom of Information Team within the Information Access Team

Deputy Chief Constable Command
Information Governance and Assurance



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

Staffordshire Police

From: NPCC CRU Mailbox [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 September 2025 07:01
Subject: OS - CRU 25/5320 CSE data
Categories: Allocated to [REDACTED]

Caution: This email originated from outside of the force. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

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POLICE EYES ONLY

Not to be distributed outside of the Police network or other agencies without prior authorisation from the CRU

The Applicant name is included in the acknowledgement email as a reference for forces only, any future correspondence will only quote the CRU reference number. Please do not duplicate the applicant name in any future correspondence and use only the CRU reference number

Dear All,

The below FOI request was logged in the CRU on 24/9/25. **Please let us know if you have received it.**

Initial advice is below.

Our reference: 01/CRF/25/005320/A

Referred by: Gwent

Applicant: [REDACTED]

Applicant's request:

Primary request: record-level dataset

Please provide record-level (row-by-row) data for all CSE-related crimes in your force area for each calendar year 2010–2024 inclusive (and 2025 year-to-date if available).

A) Scope / definition

- Confirm the operational definition of “Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)” and whether you use a CSE flag/marker.*
- If no CSE flag exists, please state which Home Office offence codes or crime classifications you use to identify CSE offences (e.g., grooming, arranging/facilitating child sexual offences, sexual communication with a child, controlling child prostitution/indecent, etc.).*

B) Requested dataset fields (record-level, anonymised)

For each relevant record, please include:

- Year of offence/record
- Crime classification/offence code
- Outcome code (Home Office outcome type, with description if available)
- Arrest made (Y/N)
- Suspect sex (M/F/Other/Unknown)
- Suspect ethnicity (classification used by force)
- Suspect nationality (if recorded; if not, state “not recorded”)
- Suspect religion (if recorded; if not, state “not recorded”)
- CPS referral (Y/N)
- CPS charging decision (if recorded by police)

C) Format

- Please supply data in machine-readable CSV with a data dictionary (field definitions, code lists, outcome descriptions).
- Remove any direct personal identifiers (names, DOB, addresses, case numbers).

Fallback request: aggregated data

If providing the above record-level dataset would:

- exceed the s.12 cost limit,
 - or be refused under s.40 (personal information) or s.31 (law enforcement),
- then please instead provide annual aggregated totals for 2010–2024 (and 2025 YTD):

1. Number of recorded crimes meeting your CSE definition.
2. Outcomes for those crimes by Home Office outcome type.
3. Number of arrests of suspects, broken down by:
 - o Sex (M/F/Other/Unknown)
 - o Ethnicity (force’s classification)
 - o Nationality (if recorded)
 - o Religion (if recorded)
4. Number of CPS referrals for charging decisions.
5. CPS charging decisions recorded by police (Charge/Alternative charge/No further action/Out of court/etc.).

Assistance

- If full coverage from 2010 is not available, please provide data from the earliest year held.
- If any field is not held, please confirm explicitly (s.1(1)(a)).
- If partial data is possible, please release what you hold and advise under s.16 how to refine further.

I confirm I am requesting only non-identifiable information for research purposes

CRU Advice:

The start of the request is for a definition of CSE, and we suspect forces will be using the definition as can be found via the College of Policing at [Responding to child sexual exploitation | College of Policing](#).

Next, the applicant is asking for single record data across annual periods from 2010 onwards, which is likely to result in most forces establishing this to be excess Cost under s12.

But further down the request the applicant addresses that s12 will be the likely outcome and provides a refined request, which is still likely to exceed Cost even though they require aggregated data as opposed to single record data.

However, putting excess Cost to one side, practitioners would need to locally assess the data and determine whether it is capable to leading to the identification of any individual, or would otherwise compromise a live investigation if given out (sections 40 and 31 respectively).

Overall, in the event s12 is not relevant, please let us know if we can assist you further. We welcome sight of any draft responses where disclosure is being considered so we can understand how the data might look. But at present we are not suggesting a partial NCND s23(3). However, this may well be taken into further consideration.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
Freedom of Information Referral Officer
National Police Freedom of Information and Data Protection Unit
National Police Chiefs Council

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



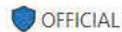
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RE: OS - CRU 25/5320 CSE data



Freedom of Information <foi@staffordshire.police.uk>

To NPCC CRU Mailbox



OFFICIAL

Reply

Reply All

Forward

Thu 25/09/2025 08:03

Hi,

Staffordshire Police have received the below request.

Kind regards,



Freedom of Information Team within the Information Access Team

Deputy Chief Constable Command
Information Governance and Assurance



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

Staffordshire Police