

25 November 2025

FOI Ref 22037

Request - You asked us the following:

Could you please provide information on your performance in tackling speeding in terms of fines issued/prosecutions or any actual type of penalty (ie ignoring speedwatch's 'stiff letters' and other trivialising responses)

I would like this broken down by speed limit penalty category (20mph, 30mph, 40 mph, etc) and ideally by each month since January 2018. However if the monthly breakdown is too time-consuming for an FoI then by year would be fine.

We received your request on 30/10/2025 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

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

Staffordshire Police (SP) holds some of the requested information.

- Could you please provide information on your performance in tackling speeding in terms of fines issued/prosecutions or any actual type of penalty (ie ignoring speedwatch's 'stiff letters' and other trivialising responses) – **No information held.**
- I would like this broken down by speed limit penalty category (20mph, 30mph, 40 mph, etc) and ideally by each month since January 2018. However if the monthly breakdown is too time-consuming for an FoI then by year would be fine. – **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 22037 Speeding Fines Data'.**

Please be advised we only hold accurate data from July 2019.

Please note that this data has been provided to the best of the ability of SP, subject to the limitation of current recording protocols and systems/software. Additional offences may have been recorded during these timescales but are awaiting finalisation and input onto these systems and would not be present within this dataset.

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

Consequently, care should be taken in the interpretation and presentation of this data, to not misrepresent the whole or any part of the data disclosed.

The following exemption has been applied:

In accordance with Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, this letter represents a refusal notice for parts of this particular request.

- Section 31 (1) (a) (b) - Law Enforcement.

Information is exempt from disclosure under S31 (1) (a) (b) where the release of Information would, or would likely to, prejudice the prevention and detection of crime and/or the apprehension or prosecution of offenders. This exemption is qualified and prejudice-based and, as such, we are required to evidence the harm in disclosure and apply the public interest test.

Harm:

The presence of speed cameras in Staffordshire has significantly improved road safety. However, releasing information on certain speeds would trigger the law enforcement exemption and would effectively disclose operational details about Staffordshire Police's use of resources to address speeding offences. Such disclosure could reveal camera deployment patterns and monitoring capabilities, which may undermine enforcement strategies. The release of such information would identify camera activity and with it any perceived abilities to monitor such offences. To disclose the exempt information would cause harm to the Police service's ability to protect the public it serves and could prejudice its ability to perform the core function of the prevention and detection of crime.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring disclosure under Section 31(1)(a)(b)

To disclose this information would adhere to the basic principle of being open and transparent, it would also lead to a better public awareness of the workings of the police force and the communications used with operations and during routine policing. The public are entitled to know how the use of speed cameras can influence drivers using the road. Disclosure of the information would show that Staffordshire Police support transparency and accountability, also showing that appropriate measures are being taken to improve public safety and reduce offending.

Factors favouring non-disclosure under Section 31(1)(a)(b)

Safety cameras are used to protect the communities we serve and deter motorists from exceeding the speed limit. Disclosure of the requested information would place information into the public domain which would allow individuals to take action to frustrate the operational tactics employed to enforce road traffic law; therefore, undermining the police's key function of preventing and detecting crime. Disclosure may give the public a perception that it would be safe or permissible to drive at a certain speed, above the maximum limit, without fear of prosecution and would therefore place individuals at an increased risk of serious harm and reduce overall road safety. The primary functions of Staffordshire Police are preventing and detecting crime and protecting the communities we serve, disclosure of any information that would therefore interfere with these functions or place individuals at an increased risk of harm would not be countenanced.



Balance test

When considering whether disclosure is appropriate, we must weigh the strongest reason for disclosure against the strongest reasons for non-disclosure. In this case, whilst the factors favouring disclosure are important in that it would adhere to the basic principle of being open and transparent, we believe when weighed against the risk of disclosure undermining our ability to prevent and detect crime and hindering our ability to protect the public, then non-disclosure takes precedence.

Please be advised that all Freedom of Information request responses are published on the SP 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 SP, which has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act, is entitled to complain and request an internal review, if they are dissatisfied with the response they received.

2. How to Request a Review

Requests for review of a Freedom of Information request must be made in writing within two months of the date of receipt of this email, and should be addressed to:

IAT@staffordshire.police.uk

Or by Post to:

Information Access Team
Staffordshire Police HQ
PO Box 3167
Stafford
ST16 9JZ

The reference number, date of the request and details of why the review is being requested must be included. Requests for review should be brought to the attention of the Information Access Team within two months of the SP 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 twenty working days. In more complex cases the review may take up to forty 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, considering the matters raised by the complaint.



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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