



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

18 November 2025

FOI Ref 22039

Request - You asked us the following:

Can you provide 100 random samples from stop and search incident logs (Which you must record) between 1st January 2024 and 1st January 2025 with the following information? To ensure fairness, I request that the 100 incidents be randomly selected (e.g. by applying a random number generator across the dataset of all incidents in the timeframe). Please record what random sample method you used.

For each one of the samples, can you please provide the following:

1. Which random number log was it?
2. Identify whether it was public-initiated or Police-initiated (Definition below).
3. 3a. If the search was public-led, record the caller's description of the suspect (including sex, ethnicity, age, and where recorded).
- 3b. Record the officer's description of the person being searched (including sex, ethnicity, age, and where recorded).
- (Complete both if information is provided by both the public and the officer.)
4. Time/date of the search

Please see the example table format below to illustrate the type of information I am requesting. I am not asking you to follow this exact layout - it is only a mock example to show the type of data I am seeking.

The bold text (prior to the colon) indicates the headings for each column.

Example one:

Date/Time: 05/03/2023, 0930 Hours

Random number log: 432

Police or public-led: Police

Description of person search (IC code, sex and age): IC1, Male, 24

If public-led, the initial description from the public/caller (IC code, sex and age): N/A

Area code: B1

Example Two:

Date/Time: 05/03/2023, 1420 Hours

Random number log: 10036

Police or public-led: Public

Description of person search (IC code, sex and age): IC2, Female, 32

If public-led, the initial description from the public/caller (IC code, sex and age): IC2, Female, in their 30s

Area code: A1

Definitions and Supporting Information

Public-initiated is an event and/or encounter initiated or guided directly by external actors (Public). For example, the initial grounds, location or direction came from outside the police service, through calls, reports or information provided by members of the public, leading to a police encounter.

Police-initiated is defined in this study as events and/or encounters initiated solely by the individual officers, or suspicious by the police organisation via intelligence-led or operational practices-for example, individual officers on proactive patrol, intelligence-led operation or professional judgment.

When it was "where recorded" to ensure it's kept, I am referring to the location area code your individual service gives it.

We received your request on 31/10/2025 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.

- Can you provide 100 random samples from stop and search incident logs (Which you must record) between 1st January 2024 and 1st January 2025 with the following information? To ensure fairness, I request that the 100 incidents be randomly selected (e.g. by applying a random number generator across the dataset of all incidents in the timeframe). Please record what random sample method you used.
- For each one of the samples, can you please provide the following:
 - 1. Which random number log was it?
 - 2. Identify whether it was public-initiated or Police-initiated (Definition below).
 - 3. 3a. If the search was public-led, record the caller's description of the suspect (including sex, ethnicity, age, and where recorded).
 - 3b. Record the officer's description of the person being searched (including sex, ethnicity, age, and where recorded).
(Complete both if information is provided by both the public and the officer.)
 - 4. Time/date of the searchPlease see the example table format below to illustrate the type of information I am requesting. I am not asking you to follow this exact layout - it is only a mock example to show the type of data I am seeking.
- The bold text (prior to the colon) indicates the headings for each column.
- Example one:
Date/Time: 05/03/2023, 0930 Hours
Random number log: 432
Police or public-led: Police
Description of person search (IC code, sex and age): IC1, Male, 24
If public-led, the initial description from the public/caller (IC code, sex and age): N/A
Area code: B1
- Example Two:

Date/Time: 05/03/2023, 1420 Hours

Random number log: 10036

Police or public-led: Public

Description of person search (IC code, sex and age): IC2, Female, 32

If public-led, the initial description from the public/caller (IC code, sex and age): IC2, Female, in their 30s

Area code: A1

- Definitions and Supporting Information

Public-initiated is an event and/or encounter initiated or guided directly by external actors (Public). For example, the initial grounds, location or direction came from outside the police service, through calls, reports or information provided by members of the public, leading to a police encounter.

Police-initiated is defined in this study as events and/or encounters initiated solely by the individual officers, or suspicious by the police organisation via intelligence-led or operational practices-for example, individual officers on proactive patrol, intelligence-led operation or professional judgment. When it was "where recorded" to ensure it's kept, I am referring to the location area code your individual service gives it.

- Disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 22039 Stop and Search Data'.

Please be advised that in most cases where a person search has been carried out this is recorded by an Officer within our crime recording system and not the incident recording system; therefore, most of the data provided does not have an incident number; also our crime recording system does not record whether the search had been police-led or public-led. These are shown as 'Not Recorded' in the data. The LPT location has been provided in full instead of by area code as this is not published by SP. The 100 random logs have been selected by applying a random number generator as an Excel formula across the dataset of all incidents in the timeframe.

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 searches 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.

Please be advised that all Freedom of Information request responses are published on the SP website although personal details are not included.



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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.

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