

4 November 2025

FOI Ref 22044

Request - You asked us the following:

Please can you provide information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to answer the following questions please for your force;

1. The number of deaths that took place on 21st April or approximately believed day (in the year 2024) by location, reason/method of death, (e.g., homicide by falling on hard surface or suicide is a category/classification example), profession of victim (if known) and whether the deceased is male or female as recorded by your police system.
2. Arrests on or prior to 21 April 2024 connected to an incident (regardless if crime established/charge made) where arrested suspect is alleged to have committed a crime (for example assault) against a patient in a hospital. You will need to check data for "incidents" location/locus "hospitals".

Clarification received on 04/11/2025:

Please provide a date range for us to conduct our searches for question 2: Last 6 years is that ok?

We received your request on 03/11/2025 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

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

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

Staffordshire Police holds/does not hold the following information.

- 1. The number of deaths that took place on 21st April or approximately believed day (in the year 2024) by location, reason/method of death, (e.g., homicide by falling on hard surface or suicide is a category/classification example), profession of victim (if known) and whether the deceased is male or female as recorded by your police system. – **Disclosed, 3 deaths were recorded on our incident recording system for 21/04/2024. Further information is not held.**
- 2. Arrests on or prior to 21 April 2024 connected to an incident (regardless if crime established/charge made) where arrested suspect is alleged to have committed a crime (for example assault) against a patient in a hospital. You will need to check data for "incidents" location/locus "hospitals". – **Section 12, please see below.**

The following exemption has been applied:

- Section 12(1) where the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit.
Section 12(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the prescribed limit.

The above information has been withheld for the following reasons:

For question 2, there is no method by which we can easily retrieve information from our systems to answer this request. This is because on 20th May 2020 Staffordshire Police implemented a new case management system. This system brought data from several legacy systems into one to provide a single nominal record, including the custody system. The old custody system has now been decommissioned and as a result there is no search facility to be able to retrieve the requested data. It would entail searching thousands of records to establish if it fitted the criteria of the request. To achieve this task would exceed the 18-hour time and cost threshold stipulated by the Freedom of Information Act.

In addition, we have adjusted the time period searched for arrests between 20/05/2020 to 21/04/2024. There have been more than 52,000 arrests in this time period. To determine if the detainee is alleged to have committed a crime against a patient in a hospital, the record for each arrest would require manual review. To extract this data would therefore require a labour-intensive manual trawl through each record.

From dip sampling, it has been estimated that it would take approximately 3 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to over 2,600 hours. To achieve this task would therefore exceed the 18-hour time and cost threshold of the Freedom of Information Act by some considerable margin.

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. Additional incidents 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, so as to not misrepresent the whole or any part of the data disclosed.

Advice and assistance

Section 16 of the Act places an obligation upon the Authority to provide advice and assistance, to comply with this obligation please see below.

Unfortunately, we cannot suggest a way in which question 2 could be simplified or pared down to bring it within the confines of the time and cost threshold.

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

Freedom of Information Request Appeals Procedure

1. Who Can Ask for a Review

Any person who has requested information from Staffordshire Police, which has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act, is entitled to complain and request an internal review, if they are dissatisfied with the response they received.

2. How to Request a Review

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

IAT@staffordshire.police.uk

Or by Post to:

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

The reference number, date of the request and details of why the review is being requested must be included. Requests for review should be brought to the attention of the Information Access Team within two months of the Force's response to the original FOI request.

3. Review Procedure

Receipt of a request for review will be acknowledged in writing. The review will be conducted by a supervisor who is independent from the original Decision Maker. The Information Access Team will set a target date for a response. The response will be made as soon as is practicable with the intention to complete the review within 20 working days. In more complex cases the review may take up to 40 working days.

The independent Supervisor will conduct a review of the handling of the request for information and of decisions taken, including decisions taken about where the public interest lies in respect of exempt information where applicable. The review enables a re-evaluation of the case, taking into account the matters raised by the complaint.

4. Conclusion of the Appeal

On completion of the review the Independent Supervisor will reply to the appellant with the result of the review. If the appellant is still dissatisfied following the review they should contact the Information Commissioner to make an appeal. The Information Commissioner can be contacted via the following link:

<https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/foi-and-eir-complaints/foi-and-eir-complaints/>

Freedom of Information
Information Access Team