

10 November 2025

FOI Ref 22062

Request - You asked us the following:

I am writing to make a request for all the information to which I am entitled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Could you please supply me with the following information concerning commercial cannabis farm raised in your respective policing authority as outlined below.

How many commercial cannabis farms have been identified in your policing authority since 2015 including 2025? (Please indicate a cut off date - eg up to and including October 2025) How many commercial cannabis farms raids have there been in your policing authority since 2015 including 2025? (Please indicate a cut off date - eg up to and including October 2025) What was the total estimated street worth of the cannabis seized from commercial cannabis farms in your policing authority from 2015 until 2025? (Please indicate a cut off date - eg up to and including October 2025) What was the total estimated street worth of the cannabis seized from commercial cannabis farms in your policing authority from 2015 until 2025? (Please indicate a cut off date - eg up to and including October 2025) How many convictions have there been in relation to commercial cannabis farm raids in your policing authority from 2015 until 2025? (Please indicate a cut off date - eg up to and including October 2025)

Could the above three questions be presented in data that is also split up by year, and the previous function of the location (i.e. school, shop etc) ?

We received your request on 05/11/2025 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 this particular request.

The following exemption has been applied:

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

The above information has been withheld for the following reasons:

There is no method by which we can readily retrieve information from our systems to answer this request. For the time period requested, there have been over 2,000 occurrences of the offence 'production of a cannabis plant'. In order to determine whether this involved a commercial cannabis farm, and the estimated street value of the cannabis found, the record for each offence would require manual review. To extract this data would therefore require a very labour-intensive manual trawl through each record.

From dip sampling, it has been estimated that it would take approximately 5 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to over 166 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.

Advice and assistance

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

If your request was amended, Staffordshire Police could provide the number of recorded offences of 'production of a cannabis plant', broken down by year between 01/01/2016 and 05/11/2025.

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.



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

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