

13 November 2025

FOI Ref 22070

**Request - You asked us the following:**

Could you please provide me with a list of all the crimes recorded by your force for the offence Aiding Suicide (offence classification number 07601) since the start of January 2015.

For each crime could you please provide the date, location, description and outcome.

We received your request on 06/11/2025 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

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

**Staffordshire Police holds the requested information.**

- Could you please provide me with a list of all the crimes recorded by your force for the offence Aiding Suicide (offence classification number 07601) since the start of January 2015.
- For each crime could you please provide the date, location, description and outcome.  
– **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 22070 Aiding a Suicide Data'. Please see the below exemptions.**

Please be advised that the data has been provided in uncorrelated tables to avoid identification.

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 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.

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.



**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 this particular request.

- Section 38 (1)(a)(b) Health and Safety

Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to (a) endanger the physical or mental health of any individual, or (b) endanger the safety of any individual. 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.

- Section 40(2) Personal Information

Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption which means that there is no need to quantify the harm that may arise from the disclosure; neither is it subject to a public interest test.

To release personal or third-party information held by Staffordshire Police, would breach the data protection principles; namely –

- Data is lawfully and fairly processed.
- Processed in line with an individual's rights.
- Data is secure.

Personal and third-party information cannot be released under the Freedom of Information Act.

Disclosure under Freedom of Information is a release of information to the world in general and not an individual applicant.

**Harm:**

Disclosure of information relating to specific details of particular offences involving suicide would place both sensitive and potentially distressing information into the public domain. The impact upon the mental health and wellbeing of victims or close family and friends cannot be understated or ignored. The disclosure of such sensitive and highly emotive information may resurface the anguish and pain experienced by any individuals with a close link to the incident and therefore have unknown ramifications to the mental health and wellbeing of close friends and loved ones.

**Public Interest Test**

**Factors favouring disclosure under Section 38(1)(a)(b)**

In addition to the basic premise of being open and transparent, disclosure of information relating to particular offences would allow for greater public awareness of such incidents and police activity.

**Factors favouring non-disclosure under Section 38(1)(a)(b)**

When disclosing information into the public domain SP must be mindful of the potential impact this may have. Information relating to specific offences could invite speculation. The impact such speculation may have upon victims and close friends and family cannot be ignored. Placing such information into an open

public forum would therefore have unforeseen ramifications upon the mental health and wellbeing of those close to individuals involved.

### **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 that could affect the wellbeing of those involved, then non-disclosure takes precedence.

## **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](mailto: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.



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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