

13 November 2025

FOI Ref 22100

Request - You asked us the following:

Please provide information to the following under the Freedom of Information Act:

REQUEST 1:

How many times has your force spoken to people, either by visiting their home or workplace or speaking to them elsewhere, after receiving complaints about them that they made comments on social media or in person or in any other format that were offensive but not necessarily a criminal offence?

Please provide the full number of people spoken to about their behaviour broken down for this calendar year (2025) to date, last calendar year (2024) and the year before (2023).

Please provide as much narrative as possible about the nature of the complaint received (were the comments made online or in person or in another form etc. what was the nature of the complaint - ie, what words were allegedly used that formed the alleged bad or offensive behaviour that wasn't necessarily a criminal offence etc. and were they supposedly islamophobic, transphobic, anti-semitic etc.) What was the result in each case that someone was spoken to?

REQUEST 2:

Has your force ever captured cyclists breaking the speed limit by speed cameras operated by your force? If so, please break down the number of times cyclists triggered speed cameras operated by your force because they were cycling above the speed limit. Please break it down for the current calendar year to date (2025) and last year (2024) and the year before that (2023).

For each case, please specify what the speed limit was that was broken by the cyclist - was it a 20mph limit, 30mph, 40mph, 50mph etc.?

Were any cyclists arrested or reprimanded for breaking speed limits and if so please specify.

We received your request on 12/11/2025 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 discloses/withholds the following information.

REQUEST 1:

- How many times has your force spoken to people, either by visiting their home or workplace or speaking to them elsewhere, after receiving complaints about them that they made comments on



social media or in person or in any other format that were offensive but not necessarily a criminal offence? – **Withheld, Section 12.**

- Please provide the full number of people spoken to about their behaviour broken down for this calendar year (2025) to date, last calendar year (2024) and the year before (2023). – **Withheld, Section 12.**
- Please provide as much narrative as possible about the nature of the complaint received (were the comments made online or in person or in another form etc. what was the nature of the complaint - ie, what words were allegedly used that formed the alleged bad or offensive behaviour that wasn't necessarily a criminal offence etc. and were they supposedly islamophobic, transphobic, anti-semitic etc.) What was the result in each case that someone was spoken to? – **Withheld, Section 12.**

REQUEST 2:

- Has your force ever captured cyclists breaking the speed limit by speed cameras operated by your force? – **No information held.**
- If so, please break down the number of times cyclists triggered speed cameras operated by your force because they were cycling above the speed limit. Please break it down for the current calendar year to date (2025) and last year (2024) and the year before that (2023). – **No information held.**
- For each case, please specify what the speed limit was that was broken by the cyclist - was it a 20mph limit, 30mph, 40mph, 50mph etc.? – **No information held.**
- Were any cyclists arrested or reprimanded for breaking speed limits and if so please specify. – **No information held.**

Please note that cycles do not display identifying registration marks as they are not a motor vehicle. Therefore, there is no offence committed. We do not hold data for cyclists with regards to speeding.

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 easily retrieve information from our systems to answer request 1. For the time period requested, there have been in excess of 4,000 incidents where the force may have spoken to people after receiving complaints about them due to comments made on social media or in person that may not be recorded as a criminal offences. In order to determine this, the record for each incident 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 333 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.

Unfortunately, we cannot suggest a way in which your request could be simplified or pared down in order 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.



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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