

12 November 2025

FOI Ref 22102

Request - You asked us the following:

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

This request concerns the operation of cannabis awareness courses by your police force.

Please could you provide the following information.

Does your police force offer drug awareness courses for people caught with possession of cannabis?

If so:

What year did the force commence operating these courses?

What was the cost of running this course in the 2025 calendar year to date?

Please state the number of times a person attended these courses in each calendar year from 2015 to 2025 to date.

Please state how much money the force received from fees charged for these courses in each of the calendar years from 2015 to 2025 to date.

Please state if the income from the courses is used for any specific purpose or whether it is returned to general funds.

Please state the overall number of people who have received a diversionary, educational or intervention outcome for cannabis possession in each of the calendar years from 2015 to 2025 to date.

Of persons who received a diversionary, educational or intervention outcome for cannabis possession in the 2025 calendar year, please state the persons with the five largest number of previous diversionary, educational or intervention outcomes on their police record.

If information is not held for all years, please provide as many years as is available.

If information is held in financial year format and not in calendar year format, please provide this.

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:

Staffordshire Police holds some of the requested information.

- Does your police force offer drug awareness courses for people caught with possession of cannabis? – **Disclosed, no.**

If so:

- What year did the force commence operating these courses? – **Not applicable.**
- What was the cost of running this course in the 2025 calendar year to date? – **Not applicable.**
- Please state the number of times a person attended these courses in each calendar year from 2015 to 2025 to date. – **Not applicable.**
- Please state how much money the force received from fees charged for these courses in each of the calendar years from 2015 to 2025 to date. – **Not applicable.**
- Please state if the income from the courses is used for any specific purpose or whether it is returned to general funds. – **Not applicable.**
- Please state the overall number of people who have received a diversionary, educational or intervention outcome for cannabis possession in each of the calendar years from 2015 to 2025 to date. – **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 22102 Cannabis Awareness Courses Data'.**

Please be advised we do not hold any data in relation to outcome 22: Diversionary, educational or intervention activity, has been undertaken and there is no public interest to continue, prior to 2019.

- Of persons who received a diversionary, educational or intervention outcome for cannabis possession in the 2025 calendar year, please state the persons with the five largest number of previous diversionary, educational or intervention outcomes on their police record. – **Withheld, section 40.**
- If information is not held for all years, please provide as many years as is available. – **Disclosed, this data is held is from 01/01/2025 to 11/11/2025.**
- If information is held in financial year format and not in calendar year format, please provide this. – **Disclosed, this data has been provided in calendar years.**

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 part of this particular request.

- 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.

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.

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



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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