

24 November 2025

FOI Ref 22117

Request - You asked us the following:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide me with a list of all the absconders from prison who remain at large now, where Staffordshire Police is the relevant police force that instigated or has led the manhunt.

Using the formal definition that I see is used by some police forces, an absconder from prison may be any person who:

- a. has been remanded in custody pending trial and has absconded; or
 - b. has been convicted and sentenced to a term of imprisonment following a trial or guilty plea and absconded.
- or
- c. has been released on temporary license (ROTL) whilst serving a custodial sentence and has absconded.

For each absconder, please detail which of the a, b or c definitions above applies to them. Please also detail which facility they absconded from (such as an open prison), what offence they had been charged with or convicted of, the length of their sentence if they had been convicted, and the date on which they absconded. These cases may be just a few days old or they may date back years if they have never been captured.

We received your request on 14/11/2025 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 last month alone there has been 22,930 incidents. There is no central repository or database in which this information can be retrieved. The only way to retrieve this information would be to do a very labour-intensive manual trawl through each recorded incident to see whether it related to an absconder from prison.

From dip sampling, it has been estimated that it would take approximately 4 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to over 1,528 hours for one month alone. To achieve this task would therefore exceed the 18-hour time and cost threshold of the FOI 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.

The Home Office may be able to assist in providing this information on the link provided below:

[How to make a freedom of information \(FOI\) request: Overview - GOV.UK](#)

Please be advised that all Freedom of Information request responses are published on the SP 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