

18 November 2025

FOI Ref 22118

Request - You asked us the following:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 about missing-person reports involving asylum-seeking individuals in the [Name of Police Force] area.

Please provide the following information for each calendar year 2024 and 2025 to date:

1. The number of recorded missing-person incidents where the individual is recorded as:
 - a. An unaccompanied asylum-seeking child (UASC); and
 - b. An asylum-seeking adult (including those in asylum accommodation).
2. For UASC cases in (1a):
 - a. The number of incidents where the child was safely located and returned;
 - b. The number of incidents where the child was recorded as having left the UK; and
 - c. The number of UASC who remain long-term missing as of the date of this request.
3. If recorded, please state the number of missing UASC cases in which there is a marker or note indicating concerns about trafficking or exploitation.

I am requesting anonymised statistical data only and am not seeking any personal information.

If the full time period would exceed the cost limit, please prioritise 2025 onwards and advise what can be disclosed within the limit, treating any remaining part as a refined request.

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. We do not have a category that records whether a person is an 'asylum-seeker' on the system used to record these types of incidents. In 2025 so far there have been in excess of 3,000 missing children/adult reports, in order to ascertain whether the individual who was missing was an 'asylum-seeker' the record

for each one would require a 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 20 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to over 1,000 hours. 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.

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



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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