

Our Ref: FOI 22119
Your Ref: FOI 21974
Date: 20 November 2025

Internal Review

Re: Request for internal review of response to application for information under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, original request first notified to Staffordshire Police on 16/10/2025.

We refer to the above request which was expressed in the following terms:

I am writing to request all written digital correspondence between (1) your force's team responsible for addressing and responding to freedom of information requests and (2) the National Police Chiefs' Council's (NPCC) central referral unit (CRU) in September 2025.

I appreciate that parts of the correspondence will need to be redacted, but would remind that redaction does not count towards the time/cost limits under s12 of the FOIA. The possibility that parts of the correspondence will need to be redacted also does not justify withholding the correspondence in its entirety.

Further to the above, we also note the following comments made within your request for Internal Review.

Please review your response.

Entire exchanges appear to be redacted, indicating an over-application of exemptions.

Please ensure that segments which do not need to be redacted have not been.

Our Response

Upon review of your request for information under the Freedom of Information provision referenced above and all corresponding communication, Staffordshire Police (SP) are of the opinion that the response issued, alongside all clarification provided, fully answers the terms of your request.

SP also confirm that the application of all exemptions outlined within this response are fully justified, and that the explanations and rationale for their application conveyed clearly and unequivocally.

May we also point out that we note that your request for an internal review came into the team within 3 minutes of the response being sent. The response consisted of 76 pages in total, including the response letter and data, which you appear to have read within 3 minutes and drafted an email to us to request an internal review. Whilst on this occasion we have completed an internal review and provided our response above, we are issuing a Section 14(1) (2) (Vexatious Request) warning. To have read, digested and formulated a response within 3 minutes of receipt, given the size of the disclosure, would seem unrealistic. The assertions you make regarding over redaction are unsubstantiated and you are also submitting repeated overlapping requests on the same topic. Further requests of this nature on the same topic will be treated as vexatious.

Please be advised that all FOI requests and response letters are published on the Staffordshire Police website although personal details are not included.

If you are not content with the outcome of the review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner to investigate. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

<https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/foi-and-eir-complaints/foi-and-eir-complaints/>

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