

19 November 2025

FOI Ref 22128

Request - You asked us the following:

Can you please clarify in your answer to question 1 you said there are "additional categories not included" can you clarify what these additional categories are and how many electric vehicles are in each.

Original request FOI 22109

Thanks for your response, I have now amended my request to the following:

1. How many combustion engine vehicles do you have in your fleet, please break these down into the following
 - a. Patrol and Response Cars
 - b. Unmarked Vehicles
 - c. Public Order Vehicles
 - d. Motorcycles
2. How many Electric vehicles do you have in your fleet, please break these down into the following
 - a. Patrol and Response Cars
 - b. Unmarked Vehicles
 - c. Public Order Vehicles
 - d. Motorcycles
3. If you have electric vehicles in your fleet, how many dedicated charging spots do you have?

I don't think this will exceed the 18 hour time and cost threshold so I hope these can now be answered.

We received your request on 18/11/2025 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Staffordshire Police's response to your enquiry is as follows:

Staffordshire Police holds the requested information

- Can you please clarify in your answer to question 1 you said there are "additional categories not included" can you clarify what these additional categories are and how many electric vehicles are in each. – **Withheld, please see below.**

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 this particular request.

- Section 31 (1) (a) (b) - Law Enforcement.

Information is exempt from disclosure under S31 (1) (a) (b) where the release of Information would, or would likely to, prejudice the prevention and detection of crime and/or the apprehension or prosecution of offenders. This exemption is qualified and prejudice-based and, as such, we are required to evidence the harm in disclosure and apply the public interest test.

Harm:

Staffordshire Police have a duty to prevent crime, apprehend and prosecute offenders whilst carrying out the administration of justice. Disclosure of the number of the additional categories and how many electric vehicles are in each category would disclose a granular level of information that would indicate the forces overall capacity and capability with regard to vehicles used for specialist purposes.

To reveal the specific details requested would identify vehicles used in tactical specialist roles within force. Disclosure of this information would allow cross reference with other forces, should this request be also submitted nationally. This would allow potential criminals to compare and contrast the overall numbers of such vehicles for each individual force and could then pose a significant risk to present and future law enforcement capability, potentially placing both members of the public and the occupants of the vehicles at risk..

Public Interest Test**Factors favouring disclosure under Section 31(1)(a)(b)**

There is a legitimate public interest in the public being satisfied that the police force has up to date and well maintained vehicles to deliver services to the public when and where required. To disclose the tactical specialist vehicles used by Staffordshire Police would give the public confidence that public money was being spent on the most appropriate type of vehicles.

Factors favouring non-disclosure under Section 31(1)(a)(b)

To disclose these details would enable criminals to know the capability, the number and types of vehicles used for specialist tactical purposes by Staffordshire police, which would jeopardise the ability of the police to carry out their duty. Disclosure would undermine policing and have a negative effect on the prevention and detection of crime and the apprehension and prosecution of offenders. It is widely known that police forces use specialist vehicles as part of their delivery of effective operational law enforcement, however, to reveal the number and details of such vehicles would reveal tactical resources available and their distribution by role across the force. This would allow the criminal fraternity to draw conclusions about the forces capacity with regard to specialist vehicles available. If this request was submitted nationally and the information disclosed this awareness would provide a geographical picture of the tactical specialist resources available to each force.

Balance test

When considering whether disclosure is appropriate, we must weigh the strongest reason for disclosure against the strongest reasons for non-disclosure. In this case, whilst the factors favouring disclosure are important in that it would adhere to the basic principle of being open and transparent, we believe when weighed against the risk of disclosure undermining our ability to prevent and detect crime and hindering our ability to protect the public, then non-disclosure takes precedence.

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.

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