



STAFFORDSHIRE  
**POLICE**

**Our Ref:** FOI 22136  
**Your Ref:** FOI 22039  
**Date:** 26 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 31/10/2025.

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

*I am conducting research into the public influence on stop and search incidents. I request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to support this.*

#### *The request*

*Can you provide 100 random samples from stop and search incident logs (Which you must record) between 1st January 2024 and 1st January 2025 with the following information? To ensure fairness, I request that the 100 incidents be randomly selected (e.g. by applying a random number generator across the dataset of all incidents in the timeframe). Please record what random sample method you used.*

*For each one of the samples, can you please provide the following:*

- 1. Which random number log was it?*
- 2. Identify whether it was public-initiated or Police-initiated (Definition below).*
- 3. 3a. If the search was public-led, record the caller's description of the suspect (including sex, ethnicity, age, and where recorded).*
- 3b. Record the officer's description of the person being searched (including sex, ethnicity, age, and where recorded).*

*(Complete both if information is provided by both the public and the officer.)*

- 4. Time/date of the search*

*Please see the example table format below to illustrate the type of information I am requesting. I am not asking you to follow this exact layout - it is only a mock example to show the type of data I am seeking.*

*The bold text (prior to the colon) indicates the headings for each column.*



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*Example one:*

*Date/Time: 05/03/2023, 0930 Hours*

*Random number log: 432*

*Police or public-led: Police*

*Description of person search (IC code, sex and age): IC1, Male, 24 If public-led, the initial description from the public/caller (IC code, sex and age): N/A Area code: B1*

*Example Two:*

*Date/Time: 05/03/2023, 1420 Hours*

*Random number log: 10036*

*Police or public-led: Public*

*Description of person search (IC code, sex and age): IC2, Female, 32 If public-led, the initial description from the public/caller (IC code, sex and age): IC2, Female, in their 30s Area code: A1*

#### *Definitions and Supporting Information*

*Public-initiated is an event and/or encounter initiated or guided directly by external actors (Public). For example, the initial grounds, location or direction came from outside the police service, through calls, reports or information provided by members of the public, leading to a police encounter.*

*Police-initiated is defined in this study as events and/or encounters initiated solely by the individual officers, or suspicious by the police organisation via intelligence-led or operational practices-for example, individual officers on proactive patrol, intelligence-led operation or professional judgment.*

*When it was "where recorded" to ensure it's kept, I am referring to the location area code your individual service gives it.*

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

*Thank you for the response.*

*I would like to request an Internal Review. Almost all entries were returned as "Not Recorded", but my request asked the force to check the existing PACE-recorded grounds and any linked command-and-control log to identify whether each stop appeared public-led, police-led, or not recorded. I did not request the grounds or logs themselves.*

*PACE requires officers to record the basis for suspicion, which will show whether it arose from a public report, intelligence, or officer observation. Any incident arising from a 999/101 call, radio*



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*update, online report, or a member of the public flag-down would also appear in the command-and-control system.*

*Given this, it seems unlikely that the origin would genuinely be "Not Recorded" for nearly all cases, and it appears the relevant records may not have been checked as requested. This clarification does not change the request; it only explains where the information is already held. Could the handling of the request please be reviewed?*

## **Our Response**

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

To clarify and as explained in the original response, in most cases where a person search has been carried out, this is recorded by an Officer within our crime recording system and **not** the incident recording system (command and control log); therefore, most of the data provided **does not** have an incident number; **also our crime recording system does not record whether the search had been police-led or public-led**. These are shown as 'Not Recorded' in the data provided to you. The LPT location has been provided in full instead of by area code as this is not published by SP. The 100 random logs have been selected by applying a random number generator as an Excel formula across the dataset of all incidents in the timeframe. We do record the 'grounds of search' however, this is a free text field, could contain various information and may not always specifically include the data you are requesting. The Freedom of Information Act is a way to receive recorded information only and the data you are requesting is subject to interpretation by the person recording or reading the log. Other than this clarification to you about how Staffordshire Police records its information we are unable to explain any clearer why the information you are requesting is showing as not recorded.

In order to assist you if you were to submit a request that specifically asked for command and control logs during the timeframe rather than a random sample of all occurrences, SP would be able to provide 100 command and control logs with the information you have requested but this would in fact change the request because we would have to select only those that have a command and control log so the data would not be selected randomly. If you do wish to obtain this data and it would be of use to you, please submit a new request to [foi@staffordshire.police.uk](mailto:foi@staffordshire.police.uk).

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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Information Access Team Management  
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