

16 October 2025

FOI Ref 21861

Request - You asked us the following:

I am writing to make a freedom of information request for the information to which I am entitled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for the following questions:

1. How many money mules/money laundering cases have been investigated by your force in the last 5 years involving children or young people (under 30 years of age)? If known, how many of these children/young people were students?
2. What is the average value of money transferred in money mules/money laundering cases you have investigated in the last 5 years involving children/young people?
3. What are the most common methods used by criminals to recruit money mules that you have identified in the last 5 years involving children/young people?
4. How many money mule/money laundering investigations have you referred to the Crown Prosecution Service in the last 5 years involving children/young people?
5. What is the approximately the average length of time it takes for a money laundering case to be investigated by your force in the last 5 years involving children/young people?
6. What is the average age and gender of money mules targeted under your jurisdiction in the last 5 years?
7. Are there any particular demographics or groups that are disproportionately targeted by money laundering/money mule schemes in you jurisdiction?
8. Do you participate in any international, national or regional initiatives or programmes to combat money muling?
9. Do you participate in any educational sessions/training for students in schools, colleges or universities?

I would like the above information to be provided to me via e-mail.

If this request is too wide or unclear, I would be grateful if you could contact me as I understand that under the Act, you are required to advise and assist requesters. If any of this information is already in the public domain, please can you direct me to it, with page references and URLs if necessary. I understand that you are required to respond to my request within the 20 working days after you receive this e-mail. I would be grateful if you could confirm in writing that you have received this request.

We received your request on 18/09/2025 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 questions 1 to 7 of this request. For the time period requested, there have been in excess of 1,000 cases which were recorded as money laundering. In order to ascertain whether this involved money mules/money laundering which have been investigated, this would require a manual review of each record. 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 15 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to over 250 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.

If your request was refined, Staffordshire Police would be able to provide a response for questions 8 and 9. However, please note further exemptions may apply.

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:

foi@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