

7 October 2025

FOI Ref 21891

Request - You asked us the following:

Scope and statutory basis

- Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) are a statutory requirement under s.9 Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004, as amended by the Police and Justice Act 2006.
- Home Office guidance requires police forces to flag every suspected domestic homicide to the local Community Safety Partnership (CSP) for a DHR decision and to report referrals and outcomes annually to the Home Office.
- These referrals and their outcomes form part of long-term operational records under the Management of Police Information (MoPI) Code of Practice and the College of Policing APP Information Management.
- MoPI requires retention of homicide files (Group 1) for a significant time period, and even less serious crime files (Group 3) ought to be retained for six years. DHR referral and MARAC data are routinely indexed and submitted to the Home Office and therefore do not require a case-by-case manual trawl. Given these statutory duties, this information should exist in a centrally searchable format (e.g. a DHR tracking spreadsheet, Home Office return or CSP liaison records).

Information requested

Please provide the following for every death in your force area between 1 Jan 2018 and 1 Aug 2025 that was referred for a DHR:

1. Case list – one row per death, grouped by calendar year.
2. DHR outcome – whether a full DHR was carried out and published; if ongoing, state “in progress”.
3. DASH history – total number of DASH assessments carried out by your force for the deceased before death, plus the risk grading(s) in chronological order (e.g. “standard, medium, high”).
4. MARAC history – total number of times the deceased was discussed at a MARAC or equivalent meeting before death.

No names, dates of birth or other identifiers are sought – only aggregated case-linked facts.

It is critical that this data is linked case by case, so that - for each death - it is clear whether a DHR was carried out, how many DASH assessments were undertaken, what risk levels were recorded, and whether the victim was discussed at MARAC.

Format

A simple spreadsheet or CSV is preferred.

Cost-limit compliance (s.12 FOIA)

This request is deliberately confined to cases you have already flagged for DHR – I am not asking you to identify domestic homicides from first principles.

Because forces must:

- keep a running list of all DHR referrals/outcomes for CSP and Home Office reporting;
- retain crime files and associated risk assessments for a significant time period; and
- routinely index MARAC and DASH data for operational and audit purposes,

the data should be retrievable from an existing referral log / Home Office return / MARAC database rather than by opening every crime file. Other forces have supplied the same data well within the 18-hour limit.

If you nevertheless estimate this exceeds the cost limit, please specify precisely which element (DHR referral log, DASH risk levels, MARAC counts) you cannot retrieve within 18 hours and why the centrally

held DHR/HoO/CSP records would not contain it. I note that to date no other police force has failed to provide me with this data.

Advice and assistance (s.16 FOIA)

For the avoidance of doubt, I do not seek deaths never referred for DHR; data belonging to other forces (if a victim had prior contact elsewhere, simply leave that blank); case files requiring manual review.

The data sought concern deceased individuals and are non-identifiable; GDPR and personal data exemptions (s.40) therefore do not apply.

We received your request on 26/09/2025 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 this request. For the time period requested, there are in excess of 140 records which would need to be manually reviewed in order to retrieve the information requested.

From dip sampling, it has been estimated that it would take approximately 30 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to over 70 hours. To achieve this task would therefore exceed the 18-hour time and cost threshold of the Freedom of Information 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 amended, Staffordshire Police would be able to provide the number of Domestic Homicide Reviews whereby either the victim or alleged suspect/offender was heard at MARAC from March 2024 – September 2025.

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