

1 October 2025

FOI Ref 21899

Request - You asked us the following:

I request the following information in relation to serving police officers within the force:

The total number of police officers who have formally declared an association with a person who has a criminal conviction.

For each of the last five calendar years (2020–2024), the number of new declarations made by police officers relating to associations with persons who have a criminal conviction.

If recorded, a breakdown of the categories of convictions associated with these declarations (e.g. violence, drugs, dishonesty, sexual offences, driving offences, other).

For clarity:

By “association,” I mean formally declared notifiable associations recorded by the force under Professional Standards or HR policies (e.g. family, partner, friend, business, or other close personal links with a person who has a criminal conviction).

I am not requesting any personal data or identifying information about the individuals concerned.

We received your request on 29/09/2025 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. To identify the number of police officers who have formally declared an association with a person who has a criminal conviction and to then identify the crime type, we would have to manually review every Notifiable Association, of which there are more than 500. This is because this information is not recorded separately,

it is assessed at the time of notification. 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 30 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 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.

Unfortunately, we cannot suggest a way in which your request could be simplified or pared down in order to bring it within the confines of the time and cost threshold.

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