

22 October 2025

FOI Ref 21916

**Request - You asked us the following:**

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am requesting the following aggregated statistical information for your police force area, covering the period 1 January 2019 - present.

For businesses described as "barbers", "hairdressers", "hair salons", "nail bars/salons", or "beauty salons" (keyword search acceptable), please provide:

The total number of raids, operations, or enforcement actions involving these business types.

The total number of arrests made.

The total number of charges brought.

The total value of cash or assets seized (if recorded in aggregated form).

The total number of referrals made to HMRC, NCA, or Immigration Enforcement.

Notes to reduce burden:

I am requesting aggregated totals only. No case files, personal data, or detailed reports are sought.

Please provide this information only where already held in recorded form (e.g. management statistics, keyword-coded returns, annual reports).

If providing the full period (2019-present) is likely to exceed the Section 12 cost limit, please provide figures for 2022-present in the first instance and indicate whether earlier data can be retrieved within cost.

I would be grateful if the data could be provided in electronic form (Excel or CSV preferred).

We received your request on 02/10/2025 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 between 2022 and to date, there have been in excess of 98,000 occurrences which may relate to this request. In order to ascertain whether the occurrence took place at a barbers, hairdressers, hair salon or nail salon, the total number of raids, operations and enforcement actions

involving these business types, the total number of arrests made, the total number of charges brought, the total value of cash or assets seized and the total number of referrals made, the record for each occurrence would require manual review. 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 10 - 20 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to between 16,333 and 32,666 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](mailto: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**



STAFFORDSHIRE  
**POLICE**

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