



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

Our Ref: FOI 21931
Your Ref: FOI 21827
Date: 07 October 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 05/09/2025.

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

This is an information request as to the reason why an officer dismissed in August 2025 was granted anonymity by Staffordshire Police and the date that was published on your Force website was the 26 August 2025 and see link and published article copied below.

It cannot be right that the no reasons are published for the granting of anonymity.

In addition, it cannot be right that an officer who resigned before being dismissed and who was dismissed for having sex with prostitutes is not named; it is completely inconsistent with the principles of transparency and accountability and a perverse decision to grant anonymity given the circumstances.

<https://www.staffordshire.police.uk/news/staffordshire/news/2025/august/officer-would-have-been-dismissed-had-he-not-resigned/>

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

I refer to your e mail and attached letter of the same date and that were sent on the 30 September 2025.

This e mail is a request for a internal review of the decision of the 30 September 2025.

What I requested was not personal data and was confined to asking what the reason was for the dismissed officer being granted anonymity.

Section 40 (2) has been misapplied.

A public interest argument is applicable.

It must be right that the public get to know why an officer dismissed for the reason given was granted anonymity.

Since the information request was made of your Force on the 5 September 2025 then there has been yet another media report of another officer in your Force being dismissed and granted anonymity and yet again no reasons were given for that officer being granted anonymity.

In particular a related online media report which can be found on the online link below and which also refers to the related dismissal hearing being held on the 17 September 2025 as well as the heading of the related online media report:

“Staffordshire Police officer caught on Only Fans offering sex services
The officer was suspended and then resigned before they could be sacked.”

https://www.stokesentinel.co.uk/news/stoke-on-trent-news/staffordshire-police-officer-caught-only-10519322?int_source=nba#comments-wrapper

There are also media reports prior to my request of the 5 September 2025 where your Force have dismissed officers and granted them anonymity but given no reasons for those officers being granted anonymity.

The public are entitled to know what the reasons are for your Force granting anonymity to dismissed officers. There exists a clear public interest.

I also find it extraordinary that the author of the e mailed letter of the 30 September 2025 is not prepared to own its contents as exemplified by their unwillingness to put their name and position on that letter

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.

We also confirm that the application of the exemption outlined within this response is fully justified, and that the explanation and rationale for its application conveyed clearly and unequivocally.

However, we note your query ‘What I requested was not personal data and was confined to asking what the reason was for the dismissed officer being granted anonymity.’ We therefore provide some further clarification upon the application of this exemption.

The Freedom of Information Act outlines personal information:

As defined by Article 4(1) of the GDPR28 personal data ‘relates to a living individual who can be identified directly from the information, or identifiable indirectly in combination with other available information.

This definition also includes an expression of any opinion or indication of intentions relating to the individual.’

Therefore, in this instance, should a reason for anonymity being granted be disclosed, identification of an individual may be possible when cross referenced with further information already in the public domain.

In essence, disclosure of the reason for anonymity being granted may in actuality undermine the anonymity itself.

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/>

Information Access Team Management

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