

20 October 2025

FOI Ref 21972

Request - You asked us the following:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding fireworks-related incidents involving animals or pets.

Specifically, I am seeking data for each of the following calendar years: 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, and any available partial data for 2025.

Please provide:

The number of fireworks-related incidents involving animals or pets recorded between 1 October and 31 December for each year.

If possible, please provide a daily or weekly breakdown of these incidents during this period, to show any dates with notable peaks or spikes in activity (e.g. around Bonfire Night, Diwali, or New Year's Eve).

The total number of fireworks-related incidents overall (including those not involving animals) during the same October-December period, for context.

The number of public complaints or reports made to North Yorkshire Police relating to fireworks and their impact on animals or pets, for the same period.

Any internal reports, summaries, or analyses that identify seasonal peaks in fireworks-related incidents or complaints, particularly those involving animals.

Where possible, please provide a breakdown by animal type (e.g. dog, cat, horse, livestock, wildlife, other) for the fireworks-related incidents involving animals described above.

For clarity, by "fireworks incidents involving animals," I mean any reported incident, complaint, or call for service where fireworks caused distress, injury, or harm to animals - including domestic pets (such as dogs and cats), livestock, horses, or wildlife - or where such animals were mentioned in the incident record or call notes.

If it is not possible to provide this information due to the cost or time limits under Section 12, please provide advice and assistance under Section 16 on how I may refine the request.

If certain parts of this information are unavailable, please provide any relevant data you hold and explain why the remainder cannot be provided.

We received your request on 16/10/2025 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, there have been in excess of 900 incidents. In order to ascertain whether the firework incident involved animals. The record for each offence 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 5 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to over 75 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.

In order to assist in refining your request, data could be provided from 01/10/2024 to 31/12/2024, broken down by month for the number firework incidents and a free text search for the words 'dog', 'cat', 'horse', 'livestock', 'wildlife'. However, please note other incidents may have been recorded where the free text does not include the above words. Where this is the case, these incidents will not be present within this dataset.

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



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

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:

IAT@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