

21 October 2025

FOI Ref 21985

Request - You asked us the following:

I understand there is an issue of filtering by the type of property stolen. Other forces that have answered the FOI by giving data for Offence Descriptions Theft of a mailbag or postal package and Theft or unlawfully taking of mail, would this be possible.

Some forces have also keyword searched the above category with parcel, can this be done for the below more limited FOI request?

So, it will be Under the Freedom of Information Act I am requesting the following information:

For the following time periods:

01/10/2024-30/09/2025

01/10/2023-30/09/2024

01/10/2022-30/09/2023

01/10/2021-30/09/2022

01/10/2020-30/09/2021

Please provide the following information:

1. The number of offences under Home Office Code 42/00 'Theft of a mailbag or postal packet' where the keyword 'parcel' is present within the MO Description / Incident Summary free text field.

2. Of those offences returned for Q1, please advise whether a theft of a parcel was from a porch/doorstep or a shared communal space such as hall if it is a block of flats?

3. If possible, can you share any data that you hold on which postal or parcel carrier delivered the parcels to the doorsteps of the incidents reported for each of the date ranges in Q1.

We received your request on 17/10/2025 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Staffordshire Police's response to your enquiry is as follows:

Staffordshire Police holds the requested information.

- I understand there is an issue of filtering by the type of property stolen. Other forces that have answered the FOI by giving data for Offence Descriptions Theft of a mailbag or postal package and Theft or unlawfully taking of mail, would this be possible.
- Some forces have also keyword searched the above category with parcel, can this be done for the below more limited FOI request?
- So, it will be Under the Freedom of Information Act I am requesting the following information:
- For the following time periods:



- 01/10/2024-30/09/2025
- 01/10/2023-30/09/2024
- 01/10/2022-30/09/2023
- 01/10/2021-30/09/2022
- 01/10/2020-30/09/2021
- Please provide the following information:
 - 1. The number of offences under Home Office Code 42/00 'Theft of a mailbag or postal packet' where the keyword 'parcel' is present within the MO Description / Incident Summary free text field. – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 21985 Refinement of FOI 21909 Parcel Theft Data'.**
 - 2. Of those offences returned for Q1, please advise whether a theft of a parcel was from a porch/doorstep or a shared communal space such as hall if it is a block of flats? – **Question withdrawn.**
 - 3. If possible, can you share any data that you hold on which postal or parcel carrier delivered the parcels to the doorsteps of the incidents reported for each of the date ranges in Q1. – **Question withdrawn.**

Please be advised that a search has been carried out for the offence of 'Theft of a mail bag or postal packet' in the time period requested. Questions 2 and 3 have been withdrawn by the applicant as to answer these would still attract a Section 12 response.

Please note: This data was obtained by completing a summary search for the term "parcel". The accuracy and reliability of these searches cannot be guaranteed as only the MO / summary field of the report is searched. If this term is mentioned elsewhere (i.e. within the call log, crime report, statements etc) these will not be returned in the results. Additionally, if the term is misspelt within the MO / summary field, this will not be returned. To provide accurate results would require manually interrogating each crime within the specified timeframe to establish its relevance to your request.

Please note that this data has been provided to the best of our ability, subject to the limitation of current recording protocols and systems/software. Additional offences may have been recorded during these timescales but are awaiting finalisation and input onto these systems and would not be present within this dataset.

Every effort is made to ensure that the data presented is accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that this has been extracted from multiple sources, developed for specific policing purposes, for which data extraction methods have not been specifically designed to directly correlate with the terminology of this request. Therefore, the data presented is subject to the inaccuracies and idiosyncrasies inherent in any large-scale recording system.

As a consequence, care should be taken in the interpretation and presentation of this data, so as to not misrepresent the whole or any part of the data disclosed.

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:

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/>



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

Freedom of Information
Information Access Team

A safe and confident Staffordshire