

31 October 2025

FOI Ref 21996

Request - You asked us the following:

I am requesting the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

-Please provide a monthly breakdown on the number of weapons confiscated in the community, starting from the period 1st of January 2020 to 19th of October 2025.

-Please provide a monthly breakdown of what weapons were legal and illegal from the period stated above.

-Please provide a monthly breakdown on the type of weapons confiscated (eg zombie knives, machetes, AK-47 etc) in the community from the period stated above.

-Please provide a monthly breakdown on what happened to the weapons confiscated from the period stated above?

-Please provide a monthly breakdown of the number of people who were arrested, fined, charged, or had no further action taken in relation to having possession of these weapons

-Please provide a monthly breakdown into details of the person arrested, such as their age, gender, nationality and location from the period stated above.

-And I ask anything within the spirit of the request be included in the response.

I also request the following information be presented in a document that can be copy and pasted from, and can allow for keywords to be searched in the document.

Please report information such as dates and ages in the format Police collect it.

We received your request on 20/10/2025 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 157,590 seized items recorded where no property type is recorded. In order to determine your requested information, the record for each item would require manual review and cross referenced to see if there was an arrest made. 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 13,132 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 where the property item is recorded as 'weapons'. However, where there is no recorded property type this would not be included in the data set.

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.



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

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