

28 October 2025

FOI Ref 22007

Request - You asked us the following:

I am requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 relating to your enforcement of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 (Sections 1 and 3).

Please provide data held by your force for the period 1 January 2020 to the present date, covering the following:

Dog Seizures

- The total number of dogs seized under:
 - a) Section 1 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991
 - b) Section 3 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Please provide totals for each calendar year.

Incident Reports

- The total number of incidents recorded or reported under Section 3 of the Act (i.e. dogs dangerously out of control) for the same period.

Public Reports

- The total number of reports or complaints received from members of the public alleging a dog to be of a prohibited type under Section 1 for the same period.

Current Custody Data (2025)

- The total number of dogs currently held in police kennels under (a) Section 1 and under (b) Section 3.
- What is the maximum capacity of kennel space for your force and does your force operate the IES - if so how many S1 dogs are currently under this scheme

Breed or Type Breakdown

- Where recorded, a breakdown of the breeds or types of dogs seized under Section 3 since 1 January 2020.

Kennelling Costs

- The average daily cost to kennel and care for a seized dog.
- Whether these costs differ depending on whether a dog is seized under Section 1 or Section 3.

Dog Legislation Officers (DLOs)

- Whether the force employs or assigns a dedicated Dog Legislation Officer (DLO) or equivalent role responsible for cases under either (a) Section 1 and/or (b) Section 3. Or will a DLO cover both?
- If applicable, the number of DLOs currently employed or assigned within your force.

Kennelling Arrangements

- Please confirm whether seized dogs are:
 - a) Held in police-operated facilities, or

b) Housed with contracted third-party kennels, rescues, or welfare organisations.
Please advise the total number of spaces for a and b.

If any of the requested data are not held centrally, please confirm this and provide the information that is held.

If this request exceeds the cost limit, please advise how it could be refined to stay within the limit.

I am happy to accept the information in any readily available format, such as an existing table, spreadsheet, or summary report.

If figures are only available for part of the date range or grouped by financial year instead of calendar year, please provide them in that form.

I do not require individual case files or personal data — only aggregated totals or statistics as already held by the force.

I am gathering national data on how the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 is enforced across UK police forces.

This information will be used to compare patterns in Section 1 and Section 3 enforcement, assess consistency in DLO deployment, and evaluate costs associated with seized dogs.

We received your request on 23/10/2025 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 the incident and public reports parts of this request. For the time period requested, there have been in excess of 3,500 incidents which may or may not relate to a Section 1 or Section 3 Dangerous Dog offence. In order to determine this, 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 291 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.

If your request was amended, Staffordshire Police would be able to provide a response to the following. However, please be advised that further substantive exemptions will apply. Please also note that dog seizure data is only held from February 2024.

Please provide data held by your force for the period February 2024 to the present date, covering the following:

Dog Seizures

- The total number of dogs seized under:
 - a) Section 1 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991
 - b) Section 3 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Please provide totals for each calendar year.

Current Custody Data (2025)

- The total number of dogs currently held in police kennels under (a) Section 1 and under (b) Section 3.
- What is the maximum capacity of kennel space for your force and does your force operate the IES - if so how many S1 dogs are currently under this scheme

Breed or Type Breakdown

- Where recorded, a breakdown of the breeds or types of dogs seized under Section 3 since February 2024.

Kennelling Costs

- The average daily cost to kennel and care for a seized dog.
- Whether these costs differ depending on whether a dog is seized under Section 1 or Section 3.

Dog Legislation Officers (DLOs)

- Whether the force employs or assigns a dedicated Dog Legislation Officer (DLO) or equivalent role responsible for cases under either (a) Section 1 and/or (b) Section 3. Or will a DLO cover both?
- If applicable, the number of DLOs currently employed or assigned within your force.

Kennelling Arrangements

- Please confirm whether seized dogs are:
 - a) Held in police-operated facilities, or
 - b) Housed with contracted third-party kennels, rescues, or welfare organisations.

Please advise the total number of spaces for a and b.

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/>

Freedom of Information
Information Access Team