



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

16 September 2025

FOI Ref 21641

Request - You asked us the following:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am requesting the following information:

The current versions of your internal policies and/or procedures relating to:

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)
Child Sexual Abuse (CSA)
Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)
Safeguarding of vulnerable adults and children
Victim communication, trauma-informed approaches, and victim engagement

Any internal guidance issued to officers regarding:

Victim withdrawal of support and No Further Action outcomes
The Victim's Right to Review (VRR) process
Supporting survivors with complex trauma, neurodivergence, or language barriers

If applicable, your local implementation strategy or action plan relating to:

The NPCC VAWG strategic framework
Operation Soteria Bluestone
Public confidence or trust-building plans with survivors of sexual violence

If any of these documents are not available, please confirm whether such policies or guidance exist.

We received your request on 25/07/2025 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

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

Staffordshire Police holds some of the requested information.

- The current versions of your internal policies and/or procedures relating to:

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) – **No information held.**
Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'Child Protection Policy'**
Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) – **No information held.**
Safeguarding of vulnerable adults and children – **No information held.**

Victim communication, trauma-informed approaches, and victim engagement – **No information held.**

- Any internal guidance issued to officers regarding:

Victim withdrawal of support and No Further Action outcomes – **No information held.**
The Victim's Right to Review (VRR) process – **Withheld, section 21.**

Supporting survivors with complex trauma, neurodivergence, or language barriers – **No information held.**

- If applicable, your local implementation strategy or action plan relating to:

The NPCC VAWG strategic framework – **Withheld, section 21.**

Operation Soteria Bluestone – **No information held.**

Public confidence or trust-building plans with survivors of sexual violence – **No information held.**

If any of these documents are not available, please confirm whether such policies or guidance exist. – **Disclosed, as above.**

The following exemption has been applied:

In accordance with Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, this letter represents a refusal notice for this particular request.

- Section 21(1) - Information reasonably accessible by other means.

Section 21 is an absolute, class-based exemption and as such there is no requirement to quantify the harm that may arise from the disclosure, nor is there a requirement to perform a Public Interest Test.

Advice and assistance

In order to comply with our obligations under Section 16 of the Act, the obligation to provide advice and assistance, please find below links to the information requested.

- The Victim's Right to Review (VRR) process - [Search - Victims Right to Review](#)
- The NPCC VAWG strategic framework - [Tackling violence against women and girls | Staffordshire Police](#)

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.



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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:

foi@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