

8 September 2025

FOI Ref 21692

Request - You asked us the following:

1. How many reports have been made to your police force of sexual assault which are alleged to have taken place in leisure centres and swimming pools* between 1 January 2023 and 31st December 2023?
2. How many reports have been made to your police force of rape which are alleged to have taken place in leisure centres and swimming pools* between 1 January 2023 and 31st December 2023?
3. How many reports have been made to your police force of voyeurism (all forms of covert surveillance whether using a recording device or in person) which are alleged to have taken place in leisure centres and swimming pools* between 1 January 2023 and 31st December 2023?
4. How many of the above points 1, 2 & 3 were reported to have taken place in a mixed sex, open plan village style changing area?
5. How many of the above points 1, 2 & 3 were reported to have taken place in a single-sex changing room?
6. How many of the above points 1, 2 & 3 were reported to have been committed by a male?
7. How many of the above points 1, 2 & 3 were reported to have been committed by a male member of staff?
8. How many of the above points 1, 2 & 3 were reported to have involved a female victim?
9. Does your force record the sex of offenders as biological sex or as gender identity?

*Leisure centres and swimming pools, with addresses, to facilitate this request:

Stafford Leisure Centre, Lammascote Rd, Stafford ST16 3TA Wilnecote Leisure Centre, Tinkers Green Rd, Wilnecote, Tamworth B77 5LF Friary Grange Leisure Centre, Eastern Ave, Lichfield WS13 7SQ Chase Leisure Centre, Stafford Rd, Cannock WS11 4AL Meadowside Leisure Centre, High St, Burton-on-Trent DE14 1TL Fenton Manor Sports Complex, City Rd, Fenton, Stoke-on-Trent ST4 2RR South Moorlands Leisure Centre, Churnet Grange, Leek ST13 6HU

We received your request on 06/08/2025 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.

- 1. How many reports have been made to your police force of sexual assault which are alleged to have taken place in leisure centres and swimming pools* between 1 January 2023 and 31st December 2023? – **Disclosed, nil.**
- 2. How many reports have been made to your police force of rape which are alleged to have taken place in leisure centres and swimming pools* between 1 January 2023 and 31st December 2023? – **Disclosed, nil.**
- 3. How many reports have been made to your police force of voyeurism (all forms of covert surveillance whether using a recording device or in person) which are alleged to have taken place in leisure centres and swimming pools* between 1 January 2023 and 31st December 2023? – **Withheld.**
- 4. How many of the above points 1, 2 & 3 were reported to have taken place in a mixed sex, open plan village style changing area? – **Disclosed, nil.**

Please note that we have interpreted this question to mean an open plan village style changing area that is also mixed sex.

- 5. How many of the above points 1, 2 & 3 were reported to have taken place in a single-sex changing room? – **Disclosed, nil.**
- 6. How many of the above points 1, 2 & 3 were reported to have been committed by a male? – **Withheld.**
- 7. How many of the above points 1, 2 & 3 were reported to have been committed by a male member of staff? – **Disclosed, nil.**
- 8. How many of the above points 1, 2 & 3 were reported to have involved a female victim? – **Withheld.**
- 9. Does your force record the sex of offenders as biological sex or as gender identity? – **Disclosed, Staffordshire Police currently records sex according to the instructions contained in ADR 153 from the 2025/26 Annual Data Requirement from Police Force in England and Wales that sex should be recorded in line with information on the individual's birth certificate or gender recognition certificate. However, this is subject to an ongoing national review.**

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 30(1)(a)(b) – Criminal Investigations
Section 30 is qualified and class based and, as such, we are required to apply the public interest test.

- **Section 40(2) Personal Information**

Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption which means that there is no need to quantify the harm that may arise from the disclosure; neither is it subject to a public interest test.

To release personal or third-party information held by Staffordshire Police, would breach the data protection principles; namely –

- Data is lawfully and fairly processed.
- Processed in line with an individual's rights.
- Data is secure.

Personal and third-party information cannot be released under the Freedom of Information Act.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring disclosure under Section 30(1)(a)(b)

Disclosure of the information would improve the public's knowledge and understanding of the investigatory process and, as all police investigations are publicly funded, would show how public funds are being spent.

Factors favouring non-disclosure under Section 30(1)(a)(b)

Disclosure of the requested information would prejudice how investigations are carried out in the future. Staffordshire Police is charged with enforcing the law, preventing and detecting crime and protecting the communities we serve. Any release of information relating to ongoing investigations could prejudice and undermine those investigations. The prevention and detection of such matters could therefore be hindered and therefore risk interference with evidence, which could have detrimental impact on future investigations. In addition, the right to a fair trial could be undermined.

Balance test

Disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act is a release of information to the world in general and not an individual applicant. Having considered the public interest factors we are required to determine whether on balance the factors favouring disclosure outweigh those which are against disclosure. It is our view that the factors favouring disclosure do not outweigh those which favour non-disclosure.

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/incidents 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:

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 another Decision Maker 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 Decision Maker 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 Decision maker will reply to the complainant with the result of the review. If the complainant 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



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

details: ICO Website for complaints link: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/foi-and-eir-complaints/foi-and-eir-complaints/>

Freedom of Information
Information Access Team