

4 September 2025

FOI Ref 21714

Request - You asked us the following:

I'm writing to you to request data on police recorded offences of child abduction and kidnapping for the latest financial year 2024/25.

Specifically, I'd be very grateful if you could supply the following information:

1. From 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025, how many crimes¹ of child abduction by a parent (Home Office classification² 13/01) were recorded in Staffordshire Police?
2. From 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025, how many crimes¹ of child abduction by other persons (Home Office classification² 13/02) were recorded in Staffordshire Police?
3. From 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025, how many crimes¹ of kidnapping (Home Office classification² 36/01) – when the victim was aged under 18 at the time of the offence – were recorded in Staffordshire Police? Please note: I only want to collect data on 36/01 offences; not the other 36 sub-categories (36/02, 36/03, 36/04 etc.).

For each of these three figures (questions 1, 2 and 3 above) please can you indicate how many of the offences were flagged as Child Sexual Abuse, and how many were flagged as Child Sexual Exploitation³.

I'm looking for information on crimes recorded rather than 'incidents'.

²Home Office classification number refers to the Counting Rules:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/counting-rules-for-recorded-crime>

³As per Home Office Counting Rules (2024/25), page 26:
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67ee9b2a199d1cd55b48c769/crime-recording-rules-for-frontline-officers-and-staff-2025_26-april-2025-update.pdf

We received your request on 08/08/2025 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. From 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025, how many crimes¹ of child abduction by a parent (Home Office classification² 13/01) were recorded in Staffordshire Police? – **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 21714 Child Abduction and Kidnapping Data'.**
- 2. From 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025, how many crimes¹ of child abduction by other persons (Home Office classification² 13/02) were recorded in Staffordshire Police? – **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 21714 Child Abduction and Kidnapping Data'.**



- 3. From 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025, how many crimes¹ of kidnapping (Home Office classification² 36/01) – when the victim was aged under 18 at the time of the offence – were recorded in Staffordshire Police? Please note: I only want to collect data on 36/01 offences; not the other 36 sub-categories (36/02, 36/03, 36/04 etc.). – **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled ‘FOI 21714 Child Abduction and Kidnapping Data’.**
- For each of these three figures (questions 1, 2 and 3 above) please can you indicate how many of the offences were flagged as Child Sexual Abuse, and how many were flagged as Child Sexual Exploitation³. – **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled ‘FOI 21714 Child Abduction and Kidnapping Data’.**

Please note that there are 2 offences that are still being investigated so with regard to these cases we are citing Section 30(1)(a)(b) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Investigations conducted by Public Authorities.

The following exemptions have been applied:

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

Staffordshire Police can neither confirm nor deny whether any other information relevant to this request is held, as the duty in Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 does not apply by virtue of the following exemption:

- Section 23(5) provides an exemption from the duty to confirm or deny whether information is held if doing so would involve the disclosure of any information (whether or not already recorded) which was directly or indirectly supplied by, or relates to, any of the bodies specified in subsection (3).

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 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



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

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.

1. 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.

2. 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