

3 September 2025

FOI Ref 21801

Request - You asked us the following:

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The purpose of this request is to gather data on the number of arrests linked to the distribution, sale or possession of illegal or otherwise unregulated weight loss drugs or products (e.g. those not licensed for use in the UK).

This request also covers cases where otherwise licensed weight loss products are being distributed, supplied, or administered by individuals or businesses not legally authorised to do so (e.g. beauty salons or unlicensed practitioners).

Specifically, I am seeking information on the following from January 2024 up until the most recent month available, e.g. August 2025:

1. The total number of arrests or recorded offences in relation to the alleged distribution, supply, or possession of illegal or unregulated weight loss drugs and/or products - including cases where licensed products are distributed, supplied, or administered by individuals or businesses not legally authorised to do so (e.g. salons or unlicensed practitioners).
2. The current number of ongoing investigations into the distribution, supply, or possession of such weight loss drugs and/or products - including where the seller or administrator is not licensed to do so.

For clarity, I understand that cases may be recorded under a variety of descriptions or codes. To assist in locating the requested information, the following keywords and terms may be relevant: "GLP-1", "weight loss", "slimming", "Mounjaro", "Ozempic", "Wegovy", "Retatrutide", "Semgalutide", etc.

Possible offence categories (examples, not exhaustive): Administering a poison (e.g. Offences Against the Person Act 1861, s.23/s.24), supplying a prescription-only medicine (Human Medicines Regulations 2012), or supplying an unauthorised medicine (Human Medicines Regulations 2012).

If you use internal classification codes for recording such incidents, please apply those that most closely relate to the above offences. I confirm that I am not seeking any personal or identifying information about individuals involved in these cases.

Email from applicant received 03/09/2025:

I am happy for the above amendment to be made.

We received your request on 01/09/2025 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. The total number of arrests or recorded offences in relation to the alleged distribution, supply, or possession of illegal or unregulated weight loss drugs and/or products - including cases where licensed products are distributed, supplied, or administered by individuals or businesses not legally authorised to do so (e.g. salons or unlicensed practitioners).

2. The current number of ongoing investigations into the distribution, supply, or possession of such weight loss drugs and/or products - including where the seller or administrator is not licensed to do so.

For clarity, I understand that cases may be recorded under a variety of descriptions or codes. To assist in locating the requested information, the following keywords and terms may be relevant: "GLP-1", "weight loss", "slimming", "Mounjaro", "Ozempic", "Wegovy", "Retatrutide", "Semgalutide", etc.

Possible offence categories (examples, not exhaustive): Administering a poison (e.g. Offences Against the Person Act 1861, s.23/s.24), supplying a prescription-only medicine (Human Medicines Regulations 2012), or supplying an unauthorised medicine (Human Medicines Regulations 2012). – **Withdrawn.**

Email from applicant received 03/09/2025:

I am happy for the above amendment to be made. – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 21801 Weight Loss Drugs Data'.**

As agreed with the applicant this data has been disclosed from our crime/occurrence recording database from 01/01/2024 to 01/09/2025 where the free text search includes "GLP-1", "weight loss", "slimming", "Mounjaro", "Ozempic", "Wegovy", "Retatrutide", "Semgalutide", broken down by the offence type and if an arrest was made.

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.



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

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.

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