

25 September 2025

FOI Ref 21825

Request - You asked us the following:

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

I would like to request a copy of your policies on Family Liaison Officers, in particular, in relation to their deployment in the case of families bereaved by suicide.

I would be grateful if you could answer the following questions:

1. What guidance do you follow for the deployment of family liaison officers?
 - (a) National Police Chiefs Council found here: Working with victims and witnesses | College of Policing
 - (b) Your own guidance or policies, if so, please may you provide a copy
 - (c) Other, please detail what these are
2. Does your guidance allow for the deployment of Family Liaison Officer's in the case of families bereaved by suicide?
 - (a) Yes, if so, please detail the requirement for deployment
 - (b) No, if not please detail the reason for this

If you require any clarification to process this request, please let me know as soon as possible. As per the Act, I look forward to your response within 20 working days.

I would be grateful for your co-operation on this.

We received your request on 04/09/2025 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.

I would like to request a copy of your policies on Family Liaison Officers, in particular, in relation to their deployment in the case of families bereaved by suicide. – **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 21825 Family Liaison Officer Policy and Procedure'.**

Please be advised this policy is currently under review. Likewise, please note NPCC guidance is reflected within our policy, therefore we follow our policy which is written in line with NPCC guidance.

I would be grateful if you could answer the following questions:

1. What guidance do you follow for the deployment of family liaison officers?
 - (a) National Police Chiefs Council found here: Working with victims and witnesses | College of Policing
 - (b) Your own guidance or policies, if so, please may you provide a copy
 - (c) Other, please detail what these are

Disclosed, NPCC Authorised Professional Practice guidance and the policy noted above.

2. Does your guidance allow for the deployment of Family Liaison Officer's in the case of families bereaved by suicide?

- (a) Yes, if so, please detail the requirement for deployment
- (b) No, if not please detail the reason for this

Disclosed, no Family Liaison officers are not routinely deployed following suicide in accordance with the National Police Chiefs' Council Authorised Professional Practice (APP) and are for qualifying deaths only.

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 parts of this particular request.

- **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.

Disclosure under Freedom of Information is a release of information to the world in general and not an individual applicant.

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 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