

22 September 2025

FOI Ref 21831

Request - You asked us the following:

I refer you to the following information supplied by a group of people wishing to attend a peaceful protest at the Elbit factory site, at Shenstone Staffordshire 26th August 2025 . I am particularly concerned about this report, as a Staffordshire taxpayer I understand, the actions of Staffordshire Police impact on us all. I further understand from evidence supplied, the coach party took advice from their own solicitor, as the police attempted to board the bus. Apparently police could hear that conversation on legal points from photographic and witness evidence . You will need to keep all body cam evidence when a formal complaint is made and Staffordshire Police are held to account. The taxpayer, who may have to fund compensation claims, may have something further to say at that point.

From Witness Testimony.

' The coach from Manchester was forcibly occupied by the police who were 'looking for someone'... Another example of massive waste of police time and resources, and misuse of their powers. When we arrived near to the UAV/Elbit factory, we were stopped by police who told us that we must get off the coach one by one and show our faces and ID, because they were looking for someone. They couldn't tell us who they were looking for or under what power they were demanding this, so we said NO. There was a stand off for about three quarters of an hour, and then the police said we could take the coach to the nearby station.

When we got there one of the local organisers was being arrested and put into a police van. The police insisted they wanted to come on board and check everyone. With the advice of a solicitor, we said, we did not give permission. They insisted on coming on board anyway and more or less pushed their way on. We all covered our faces with keffiyehs or our heads with coats, as we had been advised we could do. Some of the police had their numbers hidden which is not legal, and we are sure they had no right to be on the coach.

By the time they moved off and said we could go, it was nearly time for the demo to end, and we didn't fancy going through the whole rigmarole again so we headed for Manchester.

A very disappointing and alarming experience for those on their first Shenstone demo. It is usually a really good protest.

The Government are just desperate to stop all protest against Elbit, as they plan to give this genocidal company £2 billion to train our soldiers (to do what??!! commit war crimes?).'

Questions:-

1. Did this happen?
2. How many police were in attendance at this stop?
3. What was the cost of having so many police attending at this stop?
4. What powers did the police act under before this stop?
5. What powers did the police act under when water was not allowed to be supplied to human beings on an extremely hot day? photographs supplied.
6. What powers did the police use to board the bus?
7. Did the police consult a legal expert before carrying out this stop? Who (job role will suffice) at what level? Which agency was involved?
8. Why did some police have their numbers concealed as per this report? Were all uniformed personnel from the Staffordshire Police Force?

9. What emails or other forms of communication electronic or in person have been exchanged with Elbit over this matter? Who? How many?
10. What emails or other communication electronic or in person have Staffordshire Police had with politicians or government officers over this matter? Who? How many?
11. What meetings have Staffordshire Police had, with Staffordshire members of children's advocacy groups; concerned for the welfare of children in conflict zones and the policing of the factories in Staffordshire sending arms to those conflict zones?
12. Have Staffordshire Police received any training on The International Criminal Court Act 2001 Specifically Section 50 (Articles 6-9)? Who received that training?

We received your request on 08/09/2025 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. Did this happen? – **Neither confirm nor deny, Section 30.**
- 2. How many police were in attendance at this stop? – **Neither confirm nor deny, Section 30.**
- 3. What was the cost of having so many police attending at this stop? – **Neither confirm nor deny, Section 30.**
- 4. What powers did the police act under before this stop? – **Neither confirm nor deny, Section 31.**
- 5. What powers did the police act under when water was not allowed to be supplied to human beings on an extremely hot day? photographs supplied. – **Neither confirm nor deny, Section 30.**
- 6. What powers did the police use to board the bus? – **Neither confirm nor deny, Section 31.**
- 7. Did the police consult a legal expert before carrying out this stop? Who (job role will suffice) at what level? Which agency was involved? – **Neither confirm nor deny, Section 30.**
- 8. Why did some police have their numbers concealed as per this report? Were all uniformed personnel from the Staffordshire Police Force? – **Neither confirm nor deny, Section 30.**
- 9. What emails or other forms of communication electronic or in person have been exchanged with Elbit over this matter? Who? How many? – **Neither confirm nor deny, Section 30.**
- 10. What emails or other communication electronic or in person have Staffordshire Police had with politicians or government officers over this matter? Who? How many? – **Neither confirm nor deny, Section 30.**



- 11. What meetings have Staffordshire Police had, with Staffordshire members of children's advocacy groups; concerned for the welfare of children in conflict zones and the policing of the factories in Staffordshire sending arms to those conflict zones? – **Disclosed, nil.**
- 12. Have Staffordshire Police received any training on The International Criminal Court Act 2001 Specifically Section 50 (Articles 6-9)? Who received that training? – **No information held.**

Staffordshire Police can neither confirm nor deny whether 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 exemptions:

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 this particular request.

- Section 30(3) – Criminal Investigations

Section 30 is qualified and class-based and, as such, we are required to apply the public interest test.

- Section 31 (3) - Law Enforcement

Section 31 is a qualified and prejudice-based exemption and, as such, we are required to evidence the harm in disclosure and apply the public interest test.

Public Interest Test

Harm

Any release under FOIA is a disclosure to the world, not just to the individual making the request. To confirm, or not, whether any information is held pertinent to this request would reveal whether or not there has been any information received on the dates specified, in respect of potential terrorist related activity.

Police forces work in conjunction with other agencies and information is shared in line with information sharing protocols. Modern day policing is intelligence led and this is particularly pertinent with regard to law enforcement. The public expect police forces to use all powers and tactics available to them to prevent and detect crime or disorder and maintain public safety.

If Staffordshire Police were to confirm or deny whether any information was held in respect of this request, this would undermine the force's policing capabilities, which consequently would be detrimental to our ability to deal with the on-going terrorist threat we face.

The prevention and detection of crime is the foundation upon which policing is built and the threat from terrorism cannot be ignored. It is generally recognised that the international security landscape is increasingly complex and unpredictable. The current UK threat level from international terrorism, based on intelligence, is assessed as of today's date, as "Substantial", which means that a terrorist attack is likely, see below link:

<https://www.mi5.gov.uk/threat-levels>

In order to counter criminal and terrorist behaviour, it is vital that the police have the ability to work together to ensure the successful arrest and prosecution of offenders who encourage, support, commit or plan to commit acts of terrorism.

The impact of providing information under FOI would disclose crucial information on the police intelligence picture in respect of those who may be supportive of a proscribed organisation and to what extent they may be engaged in terrorist activity. This would provide criminals, including terrorists or those intent on committing criminal or terrorist acts, with valuable information as to where the police are targeting their investigations. Confirmation or denial would undermine the effective delivery of operational law enforcement by highlighting which areas have, or have not, received police attention from these type of reports.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring confirming or denying information is held – Section 30(3)

There is a public interest in the transparency of policing and to provide assurance that Staffordshire Police is appropriately and effectively dealing with crime. Confirming or denying that any information exists relevant to this request would lead to a better informed public demonstrating that police resources are being utilised correctly to focus on criminal/terrorist activity and to protect the public.

This would provide an insight into the police service and enable the public to have better understanding of effectiveness of the police, particularly in relation to the spending of public funds and the decisions taken by officers. As transparency is intrinsically linked to public confidence, confirming or denying whether any information is held, would be likely to improve public confidence in the force.

Factors favouring not confirming or denying information is held – Section 30(3)

Whilst there is a public interest in the transparency of policing operations and providing assurance that Staffordshire Police is appropriately and effectively dealing with crime, there is a strong public interest in safeguarding the integrity of police investigations and operations, particularly where they relate to terrorist activity, and in maintaining confidence in the Police Service. As this is a specific area of investigation which could also relate to inviting support for a proscribed terrorist group(s), confirmation or denial would identify police focus and attention which could be used by criminals, including terrorists to disrupt investigations and evade detection. This risks the integrity of investigations and places the public at severe risk.

Factors favouring confirming or denying information is held – Section 31(3)

National counter terrorism data is published by the Home Office on a quarterly and annual basis, which includes those who have been charged and convicted for membership of a proscribed organisation under Sections 11-13 of TACT 2000. In addition, those who have been proceeded against and convicted by the CPS in relation to the above offences (see link below), and this in itself favours confirming information is held. <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/counter-terrorism-statistics>

Therefore, to confirm information is held by Staffordshire Police would demonstrate openness and transparency. When a request for information is made to the force it is correct that the police make appropriate information available to the general public. The provision of information, through confirming or denying whether information relevant to this request is held would accordingly, reinforce our commitment to be an open and transparent organisation.

Factors favouring not confirming or denying information is held – Section 31(3)

Staffordshire Police has a duty of care to the community at large and public safety is of paramount importance. If an FOI disclosure revealed information to the world (by citing an exemption or stating no information held) that would undermine the security of the national infrastructure. Offenders, including terrorist organisations, could use this to their advantage which would compromise public safety and more worryingly encourage offenders to carry out further crimes.

Therefore, confirming or denying information is held, would allow terrorists to gain an operational advantage over Staffordshire Police, consequently requiring an increase in resources, which cannot be in the public interest.

Balance test

The points above highlight the merits of confirming, or denying, whether any further information pertinent to this request exists. Whilst it is recognised that there is a public interest in the transparency of policing operations and providing assurance that the police service is appropriately and effectively engaging with the threat posed by various groups or individuals, there is a very strong public interest in safeguarding the integrity of police investigations and operations in this highly sensitive area.

The public entrust the Police Service to make appropriate decisions with regard to their safety and protection and the only way of reducing risk is to be cautious with any information that is released. Confirming or denying whether any information is held would reveal data around force level activity relating to terrorism. This would result in an increase of harm to either current or future investigations, or the subject of an investigation. Any disclosure of information, if held, which has the potential to jeopardise an investigation, is therefore likely to prejudice law enforcement and would therefore be of assistance to those intent on causing harm.

Therefore, after weighing up the competing public interests, we have found that confirmation or denial of whether information is held is not made out. However, no inference can be taken from this refusal that further information does or does not exist.

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