

24 September 2025

FOI Ref 21838

Request - You asked us the following:

If you are unable to supply the information pre 2020 then supply the information you do have after that date

Original FOI Request 21822

I am writing to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.
For each of the years 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 to date, please provide:

1. The number of individuals arrested under:
 - o Section 1 of the Malicious Communications Act 1988
 - o Section 127 of the Communications Act 2003
 - o Offences created by the Online Safety Act 2023 (including but not limited to cyberflashing, threatening communications, false communications, and epilepsy trolling offences)
2. Where available, please also provide the outcome of these arrests (e.g. charged, cautioned, released with no further action).

If any part of this request exceeds the cost limit, please provide the information you can supply within the statutory limit.

We received your request on 10/09/2025 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.

- If you are unable to supply the information pre 2020 then supply the information you do have after that date – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 21838 Refinement of FOI 21822 Arrests Due to Communications and Online Safety Act Data'.**

Please be advised this data has been extracted from our crime/occurrence recording database from 20/05/2020 to 15/09/2025. Please be advised the offence is the reason for arrest, and this may not be the same as the charging offence.

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
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.



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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