

29 September 2025

FOI Ref 21853

**Request - You asked us the following:**

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

Please provide details of the mechanisms, policies, or processes your force had in place from 1 January 2021 to the present for:

Receiving and reviewing findings, recommendations or learning from Serious Case Reviews, Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews or equivalent reviews concerning children

Disseminating and embedding this learning internally within the force, including between departments, teams or officers

Sharing or embedding this learning externally with partner agencies or multi-agency safeguarding partnerships

Monitoring or evaluating whether this learning has been implemented effectively in practice

If possible, please provide copies of any relevant policies, procedures, frameworks or guidance documents that were in place during this period

If policies or processes have changed since 1 January 2021, please provide information on the current version and any revisions during this period

We received your request on 16/09/2025 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Staffordshire Police's response to your enquiry is as follows:

**Staffordshire Police holds/does not hold the requested information.**

Please provide details of the mechanisms, policies, or processes your force had in place from 1 January 2021 to the present for:

- Receiving and reviewing findings, recommendations or learning from Serious Case Reviews, Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews or equivalent reviews concerning children – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 21853 Serious Case Reviews Data.PDF'.**
- Disseminating and embedding this learning internally within the force, including between departments, teams or – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 21853 Serious Case Reviews Data.PDF'.**

- Sharing or embedding this learning externally with partner agencies or multi-agency safeguarding partnerships – **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 21853 Serious Case Reviews Data.PDF'.**
- Monitoring or evaluating whether this learning has been implemented effectively in practice – – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 21853 Serious Case Reviews Data.PDF'.**
- If possible, please provide copies of any relevant policies, procedures, frameworks or guidance documents that were in place during this period – **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 21853 Serious Case Reviews Data.PDF'. Please see below.**
- If policies or processes have changed since 1 January 2021, please provide information on the current version and any revisions during this period – **No information held.**

**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 21(1) - Information reasonably accessible by other means.

Section 21 is an absolute, class-based exemption and as such there is no requirement to quantify the harm that may arise from the disclosure, nor is there a requirement to perform a Public Interest Test.

- Section 31 (1) (a) (b) - Law Enforcement.

Information is exempt from disclosure under S31 (1) (a) (b) where the release of Information would, or would likely to, prejudice the prevention and detection of crime and/ or the apprehension or prosecution of offenders. This exemption is qualified and prejudice-based and, as such, we are required to evidence the harm in disclosure and apply the public interest test.

- 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.



### **Harm:**

To provide the names of partner agencies involved with the panels for serious case reviews could undermine existing or future investigations, operations and police tactics. These agencies, alongside Staffordshire Police, have a responsibility towards victims which must be protected.

### **Public Interest Test**

#### **Factors favouring disclosure under Section 31(1)(a)(b)**

To disclose this information would adhere to the basic principle of being open and transparent, it would also lead to a better public awareness of the workings of the police force and the communications used with operations and during routine policing.

#### **Factors favouring non-disclosure under Section 31(1)(a)(b)**

Releasing such data would give those individuals with the intent to do so, the information required to disrupt police activity. Any disclosure of information which is likely to undermine the ability to serve the public in preventing and detecting crime can only be considered as being harmful to the public.

### **Balance test**

When considering whether disclosure is appropriate, we must weigh the strongest reason for disclosure against the strongest reasons for non-disclosure. In this case, whilst the factors favouring disclosure are important in that it would adhere to the basic principle of being open and transparent, we believe when weighed against the risk of disclosure undermining our ability to prevent and detect crime and hindering our ability to protect the public, then non-disclosure takes precedence.

### **Advice and assistance**

In order to comply with our obligations under Section 16 of the Act, the obligation to provide advice and assistance, please find below links to the information requested.

- <https://www.rcpath.org/static/874ae50e-c754-4933-995a804e0ef728a4/Sudden-unexpected-death-in-infancy-and-childhood-2e.pdf>
- <https://www.staffscp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Multi-Agency-SUDIC-Guidance-SSoT-August-2024-V2.pdf>
- <https://library.college.police.uk/docs/NPCC/Practice-advice-child-death-investigation-2024-V1.03.pdf>
- [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6849a7b67cba25f610c7db3f/Working\\_together\\_to\\_safeguard\\_children\\_2023\\_-\\_statutory\\_guidance.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6849a7b67cba25f610c7db3f/Working_together_to_safeguard_children_2023_-_statutory_guidance.pdf)

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](mailto: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