



FOI Ref 22652

verify this, the nature of the concerns raised and the action taken by the police.

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1. The date, time, and incident classification recorded for the callout
2. Whether the incident involved a referral, discussion, or concern relating to:
 - o modern slavery
 - o human trafficking
 - o labour exploitation
 - o safeguarding of vulnerable adults
3. Whether the incident resulted in:
 - o a crime being recorded
 - o a safeguarding referral
 - o a modern slavery or National Referral Mechanism (NRM) referral
4. If a safeguarding referral was made by the police, to which authority
5. A redacted copy of the incident summary without personal or identifying data
6. The outcome category recorded for the incident

[REDACTED]



SP received your request on 12/03/2026 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

SP's response to your enquiry is as follows:

SP can neither confirm nor deny that it holds the information you requested as it believes that the duty under s1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the duty to confirm whether the public authority holds information of the specified description) does not apply.

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 this request.

- Section 23(5) – Information supplied by, or concerning certain security bodies

Section 23 is an absolute class-based exemption and as such does not require the application of a Public Interest Test.

- Section 31(3) – Law Enforcement

This exemption is qualified and prejudice-based and, as such, we are required to evidence the harm in confirming or denying information is held and apply the public interest test.

- Section 40(5) Personal Information

Section 40(5) 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 that may or may not be held by SP, 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 confirm or deny that information is held in relation to this request could undermine existing or future investigations, operations and police tactics. It would allow those with ill intent to cause disruption to operational policing and prejudice the prevention and detection of crime. If it was confirmed or denied that

such information is held, this may impact SP's ability to prevent or detect crimes relating to such offences in the present and in the future.

Public Interest Test

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

To confirm whether information is or is not held in relation to this request 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 against confirming or denying information is held under Section 31(3)

Confirmation or denial of the existence of the requested information would prejudice SP's ability to prevent or detect crime and apprehend or prosecute offenders. SP is charged with enforcing the law, preventing, and detecting crime and protecting the communities SP serves. Release of information, if held, relating to sensitive investigations in the present and in the future could prejudice and undermine such investigations. The prevention and detection of such matters could therefore be hindered and therefore risk interference with evidence, which could have detrimental impact on future investigations and SPs ability to enforce the law.

Balance test

Disclosure and the confirmation or denial that information is held under the Freedom of Information Act is a release of information to the world in general and not an individual applicant. Having considered the public interest factors SP are required to determine whether on balance the factors favouring confirmation or denial outweigh those which are against confirmation or denial. It is our view that the factors favouring confirmation or denial do not outweigh those which favour not confirming or denying information is held.

Please be advised that all Freedom of Information request responses are published on the SP 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 SP, 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:

IAT@staffordshire.police.uk

Or by Post to:



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

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, considering 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