

2 April 2026

FOI Ref 22724

Request - You asked Staffordshire Police (SP) the following:

As per this response, can I request that, as suggested by Staffordshire Police, the request is amended:

data can be provided for the number of violent offences including violence against the person in schools from 20th May 2020 until 31st December 2025. A breakdown of primary and secondary schools can be provided where this is named in the occurrence address. The number of arrests and charges can also be provided for these offences along with offender age. The same can also be provided for knife crimes in schools that include the following offences:

- 'Possession of other offensive weapon on school/further education premises'
- 'Having an article with a blade or point on school/further education premises'
- 'Threaten with a blade or sharply pointed article on school/further education premises'
- 'Threaten with an offensive weapon on school/further education premises'

SP received your request on 31/03/2026 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

SP's response to your enquiry is as follows:

SP holds the requested information.

- As per this response, can I request that, as suggested by Staffordshire Police, the request is amended:
- data can be provided for the number of violent offences including violence against the person in schools from 20th May 2020 until 31st December 2025. A breakdown of primary and secondary schools can be provided where this is named in the occurrence address. The number of arrests and charges can also be provided for these offences along with offender age. The same can also be provided for knife crimes in schools that include the following offences:
 - 'Possession of other offensive weapon on school/further education premises'
 - 'Having an article with a blade or point on school/further education premises'
 - 'Threaten with a blade or sharply pointed article on school/further education premises'
 - 'Threaten with an offensive weapon on school/further education premises'**- Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 22724 Refinement of FOI 22709 Violent Incidents in Schools Data'. Please see the below exemption.**

Please note that there are a number of offences that are still being investigated so with regard to these cases we are citing Section 30(1)(a)(b) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Investigations conducted by Public Authorities. These have been included in the overall figures for offences, but any further breakdown has not been provided.

Please be advised that the data has been provided whereby the location subtype has been selected as a 'school'. With regards to primary and secondary schools, these have been provided where 'primary' and 'high' have been named in the occurrence address, please note that there will be other schools involved that do not contain these words.

Please note that this data has been provided to the best of the ability of SP, 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.

Consequently, care should be taken in the interpretation and presentation of this data, 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 SP website although personal details are not included.

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 30(1)(a)(b) – Criminal Investigations

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

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring disclosure under Section 30(1)(a)(b)

Disclosure of the information would improve the public's knowledge and understanding of the investigatory process and, as all police investigations are publicly funded, would show how public funds are being spent.

Factors favouring non-disclosure under Section 30(1)(a)(b)

Disclosure of the requested information would prejudice how investigations are carried out in the future. SP is charged with enforcing the law, preventing and detecting crime and protecting the communities we serve. Any release of information relating to ongoing investigations could prejudice and undermine those 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. In addition, the right to a fair trial could be undermined.

Balance test

Disclosure 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 we are required to determine whether on balance the factors favouring disclosure outweigh those which are against disclosure. It is our view that the factors favouring disclosure do not outweigh those which favour non-disclosure.

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:

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 SP 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 twenty working days. In more complex cases the review may take up to forty 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



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

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