

2 April 2026

FOI Ref 22726

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

I would like to obtain the following information regarding roadside drink driving and drug driving enforcement.

1. Roadside breath tests (alcohol) - monthly data For each month from January 2015 to December 2025, please provide:

- * The number of roadside breath tests conducted
- * Of those, the number that resulted in:
 - * A positive result
 - * A refusal/failure to provide a sample

2. Roadside drug wipe tests (saliva tests) - monthly data For each month from January 2015 to December 2025, please provide:

- * The number of roadside drug wipe tests conducted
- * Of those, the number that resulted in:
 - * A positive result
 - * A refusal/failure to provide a sample

3. Arrests - monthly data

For each month from January 2015 to December 2025, please provide:

- * The number of arrests following:
 - * A positive roadside breath test
 - * A positive roadside drug wipe test
- *

4. Notes on data

If any of the above information is not held, not recorded monthly, or only available for part of the period, please provide whatever equivalent data is available and outline any limitations.

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:

In accordance with Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, this letter represents a refusal notice for this request.

The following exemption has been applied:

- Section 12(1) where the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit.
Section 12(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the prescribed limit'.

The above information has been withheld for the following reasons:

There is no method by which SP can readily retrieve information from systems to answer this request. Between May 2020 and December 2025, there have been more than 81,000 custody records created. To determine the number of roadside drink and drug tests conducted and the outcomes of these, each custody record would require a manual review. To extract this data would therefore require a very labour-intensive manual trawl through each record.

From dip sampling, it has been estimated that it would take 3 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to around 4,050 hours. To achieve this task would therefore exceed the 18-hour time and cost threshold of the Freedom of Information Act by some considerable margin.

Furthermore, data relating to arrests or custody records prior to May 2020 cannot be readily retrieved. This is because on 20th May 2020 Staffordshire Police implemented a new case management system. This system brought data from a number of legacy systems into one to provide a single nominal record, including the custody system. The old custody system has now been decommissioned and as a result there is no search facility to be able to retrieve the requested data. It would entail searching thousands of records to establish if it fitted the criteria of the request.

Advice and assistance

Section 16 of the Act places an obligation upon the Authority to provide advice and assistance, to comply with this obligation please see below.

Unfortunately, SP cannot suggest a way in which your request could be simplified or pared down to bring it within the confines of the time and cost threshold.

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:
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