

16 April 2026

FOI Ref 22733

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

I am seeking recorded information relating to dogs seized and/or involved in attack incidents within your force area.

Scope of request

Please provide the following information for the latest 12-month period for which data is available.

Where exact classifications are not held, please provide the closest available recorded categories. I am requesting aggregated data only and do not require case-level information.

1. Total numbers

The total number of dogs that were:

- (a) Seized under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 (including on suspicion of being a prohibited type), and/or
- (b) Recorded as involved in a dog attack incident

2. Outcomes

Of the dogs identified above, please provide the number that were:

- (a) Returned to their owner
- (b) Rehomed
- (c) Euthanised/destroyed
- (d) Still in police or contracted kennels at the time of the most recent available data

3. Legal or investigative outcome (returned dogs)

For dogs that were returned to their owner, please provide a breakdown, where recorded, by the outcome of the associated case:

- (a) Cases resulting in a charge and conviction
 - (b) Cases resulting in a charge but no conviction (including acquittals or discontinued cases)
 - (c) Cases resulting in no charges being brought
 - (d) Cases under investigation or subject to ongoing proceedings at the time the dog was returned
- If this exact breakdown is not held, please provide any recorded outcome categories used.

4. Prohibited breeds

Of the dogs seized as suspected prohibited types, please provide:

- (a) The number confirmed as a prohibited type
- (b) The number subsequently returned to their owner

Cost and refinement

If complying with this request in full would exceed the appropriate cost limit under the Freedom of Information Act, please:

- Provide the information for Questions 2 and 3 as a priority, and
- Advise and assist under the Act as to how the request may be refined to fall within the cost limit.

SP received your request on 02/04/2026 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

SP's response to your enquiry is as follows:



SP holds/does not hold the requested information.

1. Total numbers

The total number of dogs that were:

- (a) Seized under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 (including on suspicion of being a prohibited type), and/or – **Disclosed, 70.**
- (b) Recorded as involved in a dog attack incident – **Disclosed, 53.**

2. Outcomes

Of the dogs identified above, please provide the number that were:

- (a) Returned to their owner – **Disclosed, 18.**
- (b) Rehomed – **Disclosed, 6.**
- (c) Euthanised/destroyed – **Disclosed, 82.**
- (d) Still in police or contracted kennels at the time of the most recent available data – **Disclosed, 17.**

3. Legal or investigative outcome (returned dogs)

For dogs that were returned to their owner, please provide a breakdown, where recorded, by the outcome of the associated case:

- (a) Cases resulting in a charge and conviction – **No information held.**
- (b) Cases resulting in a charge but no conviction (including acquittals or discontinued cases) – **No information held.**
- (c) Cases resulting in no charges being brought – **Disclosed, 4.**
- (d) Cases under investigation or subject to ongoing proceedings at the time the dog was returned. – **Disclosed, nil.**

Please note that there are 14 incidents where dogs were returned to their owners that did not have any of the above outcomes recorded on SP's systems. Please see the advice and assistance section below.

4. Prohibited breeds

Of the dogs seized as suspected prohibited types, please provide:

- (a) The number confirmed as a prohibited type – **Disclosed, 52.**
- (b) The number subsequently returned to their owner – **Disclosed, 11.**

Please be advised that this data has been provided from April 2025 - April 2026.

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.

Advice and assistance

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

SP do not hold conviction data. We would advise that you approach the Government HM Courts & Tribunals service website.

Please find below links to previously disclosed HMCTS data and details upon how to submit a further Freedom of Information request to the Government HM Courts and Tribunals Service for this information. Make an FOI request - [how to make a request](#).

Check [our previous releases](#) to see if we've already answered your question - [our previous releases](#)

Make a new request by using the details below.

FOI requests

Disclosure Team

Postal Point 10.38, Floor 10

102 Petty France

London

SW1H 9AJ

United Kingdom

Email: data.access@justice.gov.uk

However, if your request was refined, SP would be able to provide the recorded outcomes of the criminal investigations that took place for 5 of the returned dogs (question 3). Please note that SP do not hold criminal investigation outcomes for 13 of these incidents as they were not recorded on our crime/occurrence recording systems and therefore only recorded as incidents.

Please be advised that all Freedom of Information request responses are published on the SP website although personal details are not included.



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

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 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