

15 April 2026

FOI Ref 22764

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

Please can you provide me with the following information under the freedom of information act:

1. Your criteria for the offering of a driver awareness course in relation to speeding offences
2. Your criteria for the offering of a driver awareness course in relation to red light offences
3. Your criteria for the offering of a driver awareness course in relation to driving without due care and attention offences
4. For each of the above whether or not driver awareness courses are offered to new drivers (those within 2 years of passing their first driving test)

SP received your request on 14/04/2026 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.

1. Your criteria for the offering of a driver awareness course in relation to speeding offences – **Partially disclosed, the criteria used is whether the speed threshold fulfils the desired range for a driver awareness course to be offered.**
2. Your criteria for the offering of a driver awareness course in relation to red light offences – **Partially disclosed, the criteria used is whether the threshold fulfils the desired range for a driver awareness course to be offered.**
3. Your criteria for the offering of a driver awareness course in relation to driving without due care and attention offences – **Partially disclosed, this is officer criteria which is dependent on the severity of the offence.**
4. For each of the above whether or not driver awareness courses are offered to new drivers (those within 2 years of passing their first driving test) – **Disclosed, new drivers are subject to the same criteria as other drivers in relation to questions 1-3.**

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 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.

Harm

The presence of speed and traffic cameras in Staffordshire has significantly improved road safety. However, releasing information on the criteria for driver awareness courses would trigger the law enforcement exemption and would effectively disclose operational details about Staffordshire Police's use of resources to address speeding offences. To provide the specific criteria and threshold ranges for speeding and other road traffic offences 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.

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)

Safety cameras are used to protect the communities we serve and deter motorists from exceeding the speed limit. Disclosure of the requested information would place information into the public domain which would allow individuals to take action to frustrate the operational tactics employed to enforce road traffic law; therefore, undermining the police's key function of preventing and detecting crime. Disclosure may give the public a perception that it would be safe or permissible to drive at a certain speed, above the maximum limit, without fear of prosecution and would therefore place individuals at an increased risk of serious harm and reduce overall road safety. The primary functions of Staffordshire Police are preventing and detecting crime and protecting the communities we serve, disclosure of any information that would therefore interfere with these functions or place individuals at an increased risk of harm would not be countenanced.

Balance test

When considering whether disclosure is appropriate, SP 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, SP believe when weighed against the risk of disclosure undermining SP's ability to prevent and detect crime and hindering the ability to protect the public, then non-disclosure takes precedence.

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 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