



23 April 2026

FOI Ref 22769

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

1. From start of the 2025 domestic football season to 31st March 2026, please provide the total number of football related arrests linked to each of these categories:
 - Total football related arrests
 - Violent disorder
 - Public disorder
 - Throwing missiles
 - Racist and indecent chanting
 - Entering the pitch
 - Alcohol offences
 - Ticket touting
 - Possession of offensive weapon
 - Possession of pyrotechnics
 - Entering/inside stadium in possession of Class A drugs
 - Criminal damage/offences against property
2. Please break down these arrests by the following:
 1. The number in each category that were recorded as racially aggravated
 2. The number in each category that happened inside a stadium
3. From start of 2025 domestic football season to 31st March 2026, provide the number of banning orders that were issued
4. Please disclose the number of reports received about online racist abuse from start of 2025 domestic football season to 31st March 2026
 1. Abuse directed at a football club in relation to players
 2. Abuse directed at a footballer
5. For each category of reports, please provide the following information:
 1. Number of arrests
 2. Number of charges

SP received your request on 15/04/2026 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

SP's response to your enquiry is as follows:



SP discloses the following information.

1. From start of the 2025 domestic football season to 31st March 2026, please provide the total number of football related arrests linked to each of these categories:

- Total football related arrests
- Violent disorder
- Public disorder
- Throwing missiles
- Racist and indecent chanting
- Entering the pitch
- Alcohol offences
- Ticket touting
- Possession of offensive weapon
- Possession of pyrotechnics
- Entering/inside stadium in possession of Class A drugs
- Criminal damage/offences against property

– **Withheld: Please see the below exemption.**

2. Please break down these arrests by the following:

1. The number in each category that were recorded as racially aggravated
2. The number in each category that happened inside a stadium

– **Withheld: Please see the below exemption.**

3. From start of 2025 domestic football season to 31st March 2026, provide the number of banning orders that were issued.

– **Disclosed: There were 19 Football Banning Orders issued.**

4. Please disclose the number of reports received about online racist abuse from start of 2025 domestic football season to 31st March 2026

1. Abuse directed at a football club in relation to players
2. Abuse directed at a footballer

– **Withheld: Please see the below exemption.**

5. For each category of reports, please provide the following information:

1. Number of arrests
2. Number of charges

– **Withheld: Please see the below exemption.**

In accordance with Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, this letter represents a refusal notice for parts of 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 its systems to answer parts of this request. To answer questions 1 and 2, for the period requested, there have been 1174 arrests relating to the different classification of arrests sought in this request. The only way to ascertain whether each of these are football related arrests is to manually review each individual custody record. To answer questions 4 and 5, for the period requested, there have been 2056 reports received about online racist abuse. The only way to ascertain whether each of these reports relate to a football club in relation to player or a footballer, is to manually review each individual incident. 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 approximately 5 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to over 269 hours. To achieve this task would therefore exceed the 18-hour time and cost threshold of the FOI Act by some considerable margin.

Please note that this data has been provided to the best of our ability, subject to the limitation of current recording protocols and systems/software. Additional Football Banning Orders 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, 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.



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

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