

21 April 2026

FOI Ref 22783

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

I am writing on behalf of the Stafford branch of the National Rebirth Party in regard to the response to a recent letter to the Staffordshire Police Fire and Crime Commissioner by [REDACTED]

The commitments to "build trust and confidence in local policing" are welcome but the commitment to third-party "hate crime reporting centres" raises concerns. Currently the Stafford police station is closed for general enquiries. This requires residents in Stafford to travel far to report a crime in-person. Rather than promoting good relations between groups, this approach risks the opposite: privileging victims of crime because they fall within one group over another. Why should heterosexuals have to travel further to report a crime than lesbians, gays or bisexuals?

Reference is made throughout the letter to an "LGBTQ+ community" and a Staffordshire Police "LGBTQ+ network". The LGB and T letters are understood to correspond to the Equality Act protected characteristics of sexual orientation and gender identity. What does the Q+ stand for which is not covered by those? The guidance as it stands leaves it highly ambiguous as to which identities fall within the LGBTQ+ umbrella, which do not, and what criteria Staffordshire Police would apply to determine this. Does criticism of, for example, pedophiles or furies constitute a hate crime? Should residents in Staffordshire report crimes against those groups at a hate crime reporting centre? Please could clarity be given with explicit examples of groups or individuals which fall within the Q+, and which do not.

A particular concern is the close association between Staffordshire Police and Stafford Pride. Rather than promoting inclusion, restrictions on participation in the parade are exclusionary. In regard to applications to participate in the annual parade, the Stafford Pride website declares:

"We will not accept applications from fossil fuel companies, political parties and those involved in defense, arms/weapons manufacturing or animal testing."

The National Rebirth Party holds the highest respect for all brave servicemen and women across the British Armed Forces. For Stafford Pride to ban them from attending is an insult to their hard work and sacrifice which we strongly condemn.

Prohibiting fossil fuel companies and organisations involved in animal testing also demonstrates a political agenda that steps beyond the aims of diversity and community cohesion cited by Staffordshire Police. These restrictions are not necessary to fulfil the public sector duty of the Equality Act or otherwise promote diversity, equality and inclusion in Staffordshire.

For this reason we believe that for Staffordshire Police to be promoted as a supporter of the event compromises the political impartiality residents expect from the police. Accordingly, I will be submitting a question for the next meeting of the Police, Fire and Crime panel.

SP received your request on 20/04/2026 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

SP's response to your enquiry is as follows:

SP does not hold the requested information.

- The commitments to "build trust and confidence in local policing" are welcome but the commitment to third-party "hate crime reporting centres" raises concerns. Currently the Stafford police station is closed for general enquiries. This requires residents in Stafford to travel far to report a crime in-person. Rather than promoting good relations between groups, this approach risks the opposite: privileging victims of crime because they fall within one group over another. Why should heterosexuals have to travel further to report a crime than lesbians, gays or bisexuals?

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Please note that the Freedom of Information Act 2000 only extends to requests for recorded information. It does not require public authorities to create information to answer questions generally; only if the information is already held in recorded form. The Act does not extend to requests for information about

policies or their implementation, or the merits or demerits of any proposal or action - unless, of course, the answer to any such request is already held in recorded form.

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 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



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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