

24 April 2026

FOI Ref 22792

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

I am writing to request information regarding the management of violence against women and girls (VAWG) high-harm offenders within your force - specifically, but not exclusively, in relation to Offender Management Units (OMUs) that specialise in, or focus on, high-harm offenders.

For the purposes of this request, "high-harm" refers to offenders who pose a risk of serious interpersonal or violent harm, including sexual offences, violent crimes, and other offences with a high impact on female victims.

Factors Considered at Referral to High-Harm OMUs:

- Which static or historical factors (e.g., prior convictions, demographic characteristics, offence history) are routinely considered when deciding whether an offender is managed - within a high-harm OMU or elsewhere within the force?
- Are any behavioural or dynamic indicators (e.g., escalation patterns, substance misuse, relationship breakdown) formally used to inform this decision? If yes, please specify which indicators.

Decision-Making Frameworks and Tools:

- Are structured tools, guidance documents, or panel frameworks used to assess whether an offender should be managed within a high-harm OMU?

SP received your request on 22/04/2026 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.

Factors Considered at Referral to High-Harm OMUs:

- Which static or historical factors (e.g., prior convictions, demographic characteristics, offence history) are routinely considered when deciding whether an offender is managed - within a high-harm OMU or elsewhere within the force? – **Partially disclosed, Staffordshire Police adheres to The College of Policing Authorised Professional Practice with regards to the Management of Sexual or Violent Offenders. Please see below.**
- Are any behavioural or dynamic indicators (e.g., escalation patterns, substance misuse, relationship breakdown) formally used to inform this decision? If yes, please specify which indicators. – **Partially disclosed, Staffordshire Police adheres to The College of Policing**

Authorised Professional Practice with regards to the Management of Sexual or Violent Offenders. Please see below.

Decision-Making Frameworks and Tools:

- Are structured tools, guidance documents, or panel frameworks used to assess whether an offender should be managed within a high-harm OMU? – **Partially disclosed, Staffordshire Police adheres to The College of Policing Authorised Professional Practice with regards to the Management of Sexual or Violent Offenders. Please see below.**

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 21(1) - Information reasonably accessible by other means.

Section 21 is an absolute, class-based exemption and as such there is no requirement to quantify the harm that may arise from the disclosure, nor is there a requirement to perform a Public Interest Test.

Advice and assistance

In order to comply with our obligations under Section 16 of the Act, the obligation to provide advice and assistance, please find below links to the information requested.

- <https://www.college.police.uk/app/major-investigation-and-public-protection/managing-sexual-offenders-and-violent-offenders/identifying-assessing-and-managing-risk#deterioration-or-changes-in-behaviour-fb23cc19-98a8-43f6-bed8-b8a8efc07d58>

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:



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

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