

28 April 2026

FOI Ref 22804

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

1. Please could you provide data for the total number of recorded incidents of violence against the person (including common assault, ABH, GBH, and robbery) in 2025 and 2026 (to date) where the victim was a staff member and the location was recorded as one of the following retailers: Greggs, Costa Coffee, Pret A Manger, Caffè Nero, Starbucks

(Note: If your system allows, please also include incidents where the 'Location' or 'MO' fields contain these brand names.)

2. Of the incidents identified, how many were recorded as having a "theft" or "shoplifting" element (e.g., violence occurring when a suspect was challenged for theft)?

3. For each incident identified, please provide a brief summary of the method of violence, nature of any injuries sustained, and the outcome of the investigation.

I am happy for this data to be provided digitally and in an anonymised table format. I would like it to be broken down by calendar year.

If the cost limit is likely to be exceeded, please prioritize the total count (question 1) and the outcome (question 3).

SP received your request on 27/04/2026 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. Please could you provide data for the total number of recorded incidents of violence against the person (including common assault, ABH, GBH, and robbery) in 2025 and 2026 (to date) where the victim was a staff member and the location was recorded as one of the following retailers: Greggs, Costa Coffee, Pret A Manger, Caffè Nero, Starbucks

(Note: If your system allows, please also include incidents where the 'Location' or 'MO' fields contain these brand names.) – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 22804 Coffee Shop Violence Data.xlsx'.**

2. Of the incidents identified, how many were recorded as having a "theft" or "shoplifting" element (e.g., violence occurring when a suspect was challenged for theft)? – **Disclosed, nil.**

3. For each incident identified, please provide a brief summary of the method of violence, nature of any injuries sustained, and the outcome of the investigation. – **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 22804 Coffee Shop Violence Data.xlsx'.**

Please note that SP have retrieved this data by conducting a search of the crime/occurrence recording systems for violent offences in 2025 and 2026 (up to 27/04/2026), whereby the location has been recorded as 'Greggs', 'Costa Coffee', 'Pret A Manger', 'Café Nero' or 'Starbucks', or where these retailers were mentioned within the occurrence summary. The reliability of these summary searches cannot be guaranteed as only the MO / summary field of the report is searched. If this term is mentioned elsewhere (i.e. within the call log, crime report, statements etc) these will not be returned in the results. Additionally, if the term is misspelt within the MO / summary field, this will not be returned. A manual review of these occurrences has then been conducted in order to ensure they are relevant to the request.

Please be advised that harassment and stalking offences have not been included within the dataset.

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 30(1)(a)(b) – Criminal Investigations

Section 30 is qualified and class based and, as such, we are required to apply the public interest test.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring disclosure under Section 30(1)(a)(b)

Disclosure of the information would improve the public's knowledge and understanding of the investigatory process and, as all police investigations are publicly funded, would show how public funds are being spent.

Factors favouring non-disclosure under Section 30(1)(a)(b)

Disclosure of the requested information would prejudice how investigations are carried out in the future. SP is charged with enforcing the law, preventing and detecting crime and protecting the communities we serve. Any release of information relating to ongoing investigations could prejudice and undermine those investigations. The prevention and detection of such matters could therefore be hindered and therefore risk interference with evidence, which could have detrimental impact on future investigations. In addition, the right to a fair trial could be undermined.

Balance test

Disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act is a release of information to the world in general and not an individual applicant. Having considered the public interest factors SP are required to determine whether on balance the factors favouring disclosure outweigh those which are against disclosure. It is SP's view that the factors favouring disclosure do not outweigh those which favour non-disclosure.

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.

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.



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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