

4 August 2026

FOI Ref 23108

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

Please provide the data for each calendar month from January 2024 to the most recent month available.

Crime volumes

1. Please provide the total number of recorded crimes for each month.
2. Please provide a monthly breakdown of recorded crimes by offence category (or Home Office offence group if used by your force).

Suspect/offender age

3. Where recorded and disclosable, please provide a monthly breakdown of the age (or age band) of identified suspects/offenders associated with each offence category.

If exact ages cannot be disclosed, age bands such as those below would be sufficient:

Under 10
10–17
18–24
25–34
35–49
50–64
65+

Victim age (optional)

4. Where available, please provide a monthly breakdown of victim age bands for each offence category.

Seasonal information

5. If your force already holds any reports or summaries identifying seasonal trends in crime, particularly during the school summer holiday period, please provide copies of those reports.

SP received your request on 09/07/2026 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.

- Please provide the data for each calendar month from January 2024 to the most recent month available.
- Crime volumes
 1. Please provide the total number of recorded crimes for each month.
 2. Please provide a monthly breakdown of recorded crimes by offence category (or Home Office offence group if used by your force).
- Suspect/offender age
 3. Where recorded and disclosable, please provide a monthly breakdown of the age (or age band) of identified suspects/offenders associated with each offence category.
- If exact ages cannot be disclosed, age bands such as those below would be sufficient:
 - Under 10
 - 10–17
 - 18–24
 - 25–34
 - 35–49
 - 50–64
 - 65+
- Victim age (optional)
 4. Where available, please provide a monthly breakdown of victim age bands for each offence category.
 - **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 23108 Crime by Month Data'.**
- Seasonal information
 5. If your force already holds any reports or summaries identifying seasonal trends in crime, particularly during the school summer holiday period, please provide copies of those reports.
 - **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying files titled;**
'FOI 23108 YOS violence update Sept 2025'
'FOI 23108 2024 Seasonality and Prediction'
'FOI 23108 2025 Seasonality and Prediction'
'FOI 23108 2026 Seasonality and Prediction'
Please see the below exemptions.

Please note;

- the suspect/offender and victim age ranges have been provided how they are recorded on the system used to service this request.
- that these figures have 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 figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that data is 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.

As a consequence, care should be taken in the interpretation and presentation of this data, so as to not misrepresent the whole or any part of the data disclosed.

All Freedom of Information request responses are published on the SP website although personal details are not included.

The following exemptions have 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 be 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.

- **Section 40(2) Personal Information**

Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption which means that there is no need to quantify the harm that may arise from the disclosure; neither is it subject to a public interest test.

To release personal or third-party information held by SP, would breach the data protection principles; namely –

- Data is lawfully and fairly processed.
- Processed in line with an individual's rights.
- Data is secure.

Personal and third-party information cannot be released under the Freedom of Information Act.

Disclosure under Freedom of Information is a release of information to the world in general and not an individual applicant.

Harm:

To provide precise details regarding operation names and the specific locations of where certain crimes have been committed 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. Knowing this information and any further details for specific areas would also aide criminals in disrupting events involving these areas.

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)

Releasing such data would give those individuals with the intent to do so, the intelligence required to disrupt police activity or even avoid being detected. This knowledge would allow those with ill intent to target their offending more effectively which would inevitably lead to an increased likelihood of criminal activity and an increased danger to the public. Any disclosure of information which is likely to undermine the ability to serve the public in preventing and detecting crime can only be considered as being harmful to the public.

Balance test

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

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 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