

11 August 2026

FOI Ref 23147

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

I am requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding your force's current arrangements for dealing with incidents and investigations involving dangerous dogs and offences under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991.

Please provide the following information:

1. Dedicated dangerous dog function

Does your force currently operate a dedicated dangerous dog team, unit, or specialist function?

Please confirm which of the following applies:

Yes – dedicated standalone team/unit

Yes – specialist function within another department

No – dangerous dog investigations are managed through general policing teams

Other – please provide details

2. Structure and location within the organisation

If a dedicated team or specialist function exists:

a) What is the name of the team/function?

b) Which department does it sit within?

(e.g. Local Policing, CID, Public Protection, Specialist Operations, Operational Support, or other)

c) Is the function:

Force-wide;

Locally managed by individual commands/divisions;

Provided through collaboration with another force or organisation?

3. Staffing levels

Please provide the current staffing establishment for this function, expressed as full-time equivalent (FTE) where possible.

Please provide a breakdown of:

Police officers (including rank breakdown)

Police staff

PCSOs

Other personnel (please specify)

4. Dedicated or wider duties



Are personnel allocated solely to dangerous dog work, or do they undertake other duties?

If they undertake other duties, please provide a brief description of those additional responsibilities.

5. Specialist roles

Does your force have any of the following roles:

Dog Legislation Officer (DLO)

Dangerous dog coordinator/lead

Police staff member(s) dedicated to dangerous dog administration or case management

Other personnel whose sole role, or additional role, involves dangerous dog investigation, tactical advice, or specialist support

If yes, please provide the number of posts and whether they are full-time or part-time.

6. Training and accreditation

Does your force provide any dedicated training or accreditation for officers/staff undertaking dangerous dog investigations?

If yes, please provide details of the training provided.

7. Operational model

Please provide a brief description of how dangerous dog incidents are managed within your force, including whether:

Initial response is provided by general policing teams;

Investigations are subsequently transferred to specialist staff;

Specialist staff provide advice/support only.

8. Policies and documents

Please provide copies of any publicly releasable documents that describe the role, remit, or operating model of your dangerous dog function (for example role profiles, terms of reference, guidance documents, or similar).

For clarity, this request relates to dangerous dog investigation/enforcement functions and not police dog units or operational police dogs.

SP received your request on 20/07/2026 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

SP's response to your enquiry is as follows:

SP holds some of the requested information.



- I am requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding your force's current arrangements for dealing with incidents and investigations involving dangerous dogs and offences under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991.

Please provide the following information:

- 1. Dedicated dangerous dog function

Does your force currently operate a dedicated dangerous dog team, unit, or specialist function?

Please confirm which of the following applies:

Yes – dedicated standalone team/unit

Yes – specialist function within another department

No – dangerous dog investigations are managed through general policing teams

Other – please provide details

- Disclosed, SP does not have a specific, named Dangerous Dogs Team/Unit/specialist function.

- 2. Structure and location within the organisation

If a dedicated team or specialist function exists:

a) What is the name of the team/function?

b) Which department does it sit within?

(e.g. Local Policing, CID, Public Protection, Specialist Operations, Operational Support, or other)

c) Is the function:

Force-wide;

Locally managed by individual commands/divisions;

Provided through collaboration with another force or organisation?

-No Information Held

- 3. Staffing levels

Please provide the current staffing establishment for this function, expressed as full-time equivalent (FTE) where possible.

Please provide a breakdown of:

Police officers (including rank breakdown)

Police staff

PCSOs

Other personnel (please specify)

- No Information Held

- 4. Dedicated or wider duties

Are personnel allocated solely to dangerous dog work, or do they undertake other duties?

If they undertake other duties, please provide a brief description of those additional responsibilities.

- No Information Held



- 5. Specialist roles

Does your force have any of the following roles:

Dog Legislation Officer (DLO)

Dangerous dog coordinator/lead

Police staff member(s) dedicated to dangerous dog administration or case management

Other personnel whose sole role, or additional role, involves dangerous dog investigation, tactical advice, or specialist support

If yes, please provide the number of posts and whether they are full-time or part-time.

- Disclosed, yes 2 full time DLO Officers.

- 6. Training and accreditation

Does your force provide any dedicated training or accreditation for officers/staff undertaking dangerous dog investigations? – **Disclosed, no.**

If yes, please provide details of the training provided. – **Not applicable.**

- 7. Operational model

Please provide a brief description of how dangerous dog incidents are managed within your force, including whether:

Initial response is provided by general policing teams; - **Disclosed, yes, initial response to dangerous dog incidents is often resourced by front line police officers or dog handlers.**

Investigations are subsequently transferred to specialist staff; - **Disclosed, investigations often remain with the attending officer who will remain the OIC. DLO's will often support these investigations and provide guidance unless deemed necessary to run a civil application in which case the DLO's may retain this.**

Specialist staff provide advice/support only. – **Disclosed, specialist staff (DLO's) will provide support and advice as well as building and presenting case files to criminal / civil courts around dangerous dogs offences.**

- 8. Policies and documents

Please provide copies of any publicly releasable documents that describe the role, remit, or operating model of your dangerous dog function (for example role profiles, terms of reference, guidance documents, or similar).

- No Information Held

For clarity, this request relates to dangerous dog investigation/enforcement functions and not police dog units or operational police dogs.

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

Freedom of Information Request Appeals Procedure



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

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