

18 August 2026

FOI Ref 23154

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

This request is limited to current policy documents only. I am not asking for case material, audits, training records, historic versions, internal reviews or correspondence.

Please provide copies of the current policy, procedure, standard operating procedure or formal guidance used by your force that governs:

1. Sudden unexpected death / unexplained death / apparent suicide

The current force policy or procedure for sudden unexpected death, unexplained death, apparent suicide, suspected suicide, or death where no crime is initially apparent.

2. Domestic abuse or coercive-control context in apparent suicide or sudden death

Any current policy or policy section that requires officers or staff to consider domestic abuse, coercive control, stalking, harassment, recent separation, recent relationship conflict, family/friend concern, prior domestic abuse call-outs, or partner/ex-partner involvement when attending or investigating a sudden death or apparent suicide.

3. Classification and provisional decision-making

Any current policy or policy section stating whether a death initially considered apparent suicide or non-suspicious should remain provisional where domestic abuse, coercive control, stalking, harassment, digital abuse, prior police contact or family concern may be relevant.

4. Evidence preservation and contemporaneous accounts

Any current policy or policy section on scene preservation, evidence preservation, decision logs, supervisory review, or taking contemporaneous accounts at the scene and at the time in sudden death or apparent suicide cases.

5. Digital evidence

Any current policy or policy section on seizure, preservation, download, retention, examination or release of digital devices or digital data in sudden death, apparent suicide or domestic abuse-context deaths, including phones, laptops, tablets, cloud accounts, messages, call logs, social media or search history.

6. Family liaison and death notification

Any current policy or policy section on family liaison, family contact, bereavement communication or death notification in sudden death or apparent suicide cases.

Please include any policy section that explains whether classification as apparent suicide affects whether a Family Liaison Officer, specialist family contact officer, or bereavement-trained officer/practitioner can be allocated.

7. DHR / DARDR / suspected victim suicide following domestic abuse



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Any current policy or policy section on referral to Domestic Homicide Review, Domestic Abuse Related Death Review, or suspected victim suicide following domestic abuse processes where a death is initially recorded as apparent suicide.

If no standalone policy exists for any of the above, please confirm whether the relevant guidance is contained within another document and provide that document or the relevant extract.

SP received your request on 21/07/2026 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Please find below SP's response.

SP holds/does not hold the following requested information.

- **Unknown.***

Advice and assistance

Section 16 of the Act places an obligation upon the Authority to provide advice and assistance, in order to comply with this obligation please see below.

*The FOI team have made numerous exhaustive attempts to obtain the data you have requested from the relevant data holders within the force. However, following all attempts, no satisfactory response from the data holder with which to provide a response to your request has been received. If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your information request, you can make an appeal to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). The easiest way to lodge your appeal is via their website: www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints

Freedom of Information Request Appeals Procedure

If you are unhappy with this response you can 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