

18 August 2026

FOI Ref 23178

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

'Thank you for your response.

You stated that a keyword search for "CLONE" returned more than 1,000 records. Please provide:

1. The number of records returned by that search for each calendar year from 2023 to 2025, and for 2026 to date.
2. Confirmation of which system or record type was searched.
3. Confirmation of the search fields covered, for example incident descriptions, crime summaries or officer notes.
4. Confirmation of whether these figures can be provided without manually reviewing the individual records.

I understand that the results may include records unrelated to cloned vehicle registration plates and would report that limitation.'

SP received your request on 27/07/2026 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.

'Thank you for your response.

You stated that a keyword search for "CLONE" returned more than 1,000 records. Please provide:

1. The number of records returned by that search for each calendar year from 2023 to 2025, and for 2026 to date.
- Disclosed: Please see the attached file entitled, 'FOI 23178 Refinement of FOI 23034 Penalty Charge Notices Data.xlsx'
2. Confirmation of which system or record type was searched.
- Disclosed: Staffordshire Police Command and Control Incident system
3. Confirmation of the search fields covered, for example incident descriptions, crime summaries or officer notes.
- Disclosed: All vehicle crime incidents were searched for the keyword search of 'CLONE' in the individual incident logs.
4. Confirmation of whether these figures can be provided without manually reviewing the individual records.
- Disclosed: These figures have been provided without manually reviewing the individual records.

I understand that the results may include records unrelated to cloned vehicle registration plates and would report that limitation.'

Please note that these figures have been provided to the best of the ability of SP, subject to the limitation of current recording protocols and systems and software. Additional incidents 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. The method by which the search was carried out, as listed in the response, was such that these results may include records unrelated to cloned vehicle registration plates.

Therefore, care should be taken in the interpretation and presentation of this data, 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.

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

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



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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