

5 August 2026

FOI Ref 23193

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

I am seeking information relating to recorded crimes involving the use of a kirpan (the Sikh ceremonial sword).

For each calendar year from 1 January 2021 to 27 July 2026 (or the most recent data available), please provide:

The number of recorded crimes in which a "kirpan", "Sikh ceremonial sword", or "Sikh dagger" is recorded as having been used, possessed, or otherwise associated with the offence.

A breakdown of those offences by offence type or Home Office offence category for each year.

A redacted copy of the crime report, incident summary, MO (modus operandi) text, occurrence log, or other free-text narrative relating to each offence, with all personal data and information identifying individuals removed as necessary.

If your force records this information through keyword searches rather than structured fields, I would be grateful if you could search for the terms "kirpan", "Sikh dagger" and "Sikh ceremonial sword" within relevant crime recording systems.

SP received your request on 28/07/2026 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.**

I am seeking information relating to recorded crimes involving the use of a kirpan (the Sikh ceremonial sword).

For each calendar year from 1 January 2021 to 27 July 2026 (or the most recent data available), please provide:

- The number of recorded crimes in which a "kirpan", "Sikh ceremonial sword", or "Sikh dagger" is recorded as having been used, possessed, or otherwise associated with the offence.  
- **Disclosed, nil for all years.**
- A breakdown of those offences by offence type or Home Office offence category for each year.  
- **Not applicable.**



- A redacted copy of the crime report, incident summary, MO (modus operandi) text, occurrence log, or other free-text narrative relating to each offence, with all personal data and information identifying individuals removed as necessary.

**- Not applicable.**

If your force records this information through keyword searches rather than structured fields, I would be grateful if you could search for the terms "kirpan", "Sikh dagger" and "Sikh ceremonial sword" within relevant crime recording systems.

This data was obtained by completing a summary search for the terms "kirpan", "Sikh dagger" and "Sikh ceremonial sword". The accuracy and reliability of these searches cannot be guaranteed as only the MO / summary field of the report is searched. If this term is mentioned elsewhere (e.g. within the call log, crime report, statements) these will not be returned in the results. Additionally, if the term is misspelt within the MO / summary field, this will not be returned. To provide accurate results would require manually interrogating each crime within the specified timeframe to establish its relevance to your request.

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.

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.

### **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](mailto:IAT@staffordshire.police.uk)

Or by Post to:

Information Access Team  
Staffordshire Police HQ  
PO Box 3167  
Stafford  
ST16 9JZ



STAFFORDSHIRE  
**POLICE**

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