

6 August 2026

FOI Ref 23205

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

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

My query relates to data on drug facilitated sexual assault. I appreciate there is no Home Office crime code specifically for this and so I am asking you to cross check particular crimes with key word searches in the text fields.

I would like all of the following data broken down for each calendar year from 2015 to 2025, and Jan to June 2016.

1. For each year: The number of incidents reported of rape or sexual assault where the log also contains any of the following key words: "sleep" OR "drugged" OR "drug facilitated" (on your incident logs)
2. For each of the above (broken down by year), how many of these incidents were then logged as crimes? (on your crime recording system)
3. For each of the crime reports (in questions 2), how many: a. Proceeded to investigation, b. Proceeded to prosecution, c. were logged as No Further Action
4. For each year - how many a. Incidents logged, and b. Crimes logged for "conspiracy to rape"
5. For each year - how many a. Incidents logged, and b. Crimes logged for "conspiracy to administer a substance with intent"
6. For each year - how many a. Incidents logged, and b. Crimes logged for "administering a substance with intent to engage in sexual activity"

SP received your request on 01/08/2026 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

SP's response to your enquiry is as follows:

In accordance with Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, this letter represents a refusal notice for this request.

The following exemption has been applied:

- Section 12(1) where the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit.
- Section 12(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the prescribed limit'.

The above information has been withheld for the following reasons:

There is no method by which SP can readily retrieve information from local police systems to answer this request. For the period requested, there have been in excess of 6,570 incidents of where the incident log includes the words 'sleep', 'drugged' or 'drug facilitated'. To determine the requested information each

incident would need to be cross-referenced between our incident recording system and our crime recording database to identify the outcome. Therefore each record would require a manual review. To extract this data would therefore require a very labour-intensive manual trawl through each record.

From dip sampling, it has been estimated that it would take approximately 5 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to over 547 hours. To achieve this task would therefore exceed the 18-hour time and cost threshold of the Freedom of Information Act by a considerable margin.

Advice and assistance

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

In order to assist with refining your request, data could be provided from our Crime/Occurrence Recording System where the MO contains the terms 'sleep', 'drugged', or 'drug facilitated' from 2020 onwards. This data could then be broken down by offence type and outcome for each year. However please note that further exemptions may apply.

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

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 Force's 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 20 working days. In more complex cases the review may take up to 40 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