

24 August 2026

FOI Ref 23232

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

I am writing to request the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, for each calendar year 2021–2025, or financial years 2021/22–2025/26 if that is how the data is held (please state which basis is used). Counts based on the date on which the offence was recorded are acceptable.

This request is for aggregate counts only, drawn from your crime recording system. No manual review of individual crime records or case files is required. For the purposes of this request, "structured code" means a structured modus operandi (MO), method-of-entry, attack-method, asset-type, or equivalent recording code.

(a) Vehicle-enabled crime against business/commercial premises — please provide, separately:

(i) The number of recorded Burglary (Business and Community) offences where a structured code indicates a vehicle was used to breach the premises; and

(ii) The number of recorded Robbery of Business Property offences where a structured code indicates a vehicle was used to breach the premises.

If your system cannot readily separate these two classifications, a single combined count for (a) is acceptable, provided you state that the figure is combined.

Where a structured premises- or asset-type code allows retail premises to be identified separately, please also provide the retail-premises subset. If no such distinction can readily be made, the broader business/commercial premises count is acceptable, provided the scope of the figure is stated.

(b) ATM-targeted crime: the number of recorded offences, under whichever classification your force uses to record attacks on automatic teller machines (e.g. Theft, Burglary, Criminal Damage or Robbery of Business Property, as applicable), where a structured code indicates that a vehicle was used — whether to breach the premises, to physically attack the ATM, or to remove or attempt to remove it.

(c) EV charging infrastructure: the number of recorded Criminal Damage offences where a structured code indicates damage to an electric vehicle charge point caused by vehicle impact. If this cannot be identified from structured codes without reviewing individual records, please state that this information is not retrievable from structured fields. No alternative or keyword-based figure is requested for this part.

(d) Only where the information requested in (a) and/or (b) cannot be retrieved using structured codes, please instead provide, for each year, the number of distinct recorded offences returned by a free-text search of MO fields, crime notes or equivalent searchable fields for one or more of the following terms: "ram raid", "ram-raid", "ramraid", "rammed the shutter", "rammed the door", "drove through the shopfront", "drove through the shop front", "vehicles used to gain access" and "vehicles used in the commission of the crime". If your system cannot de-duplicate records matching more than one search term, raw hit counts by term are acceptable, provided you clearly state that records may be counted more than once. No manual validation or review of the returned records is requested, and I accept that the results may contain

false positives or incidents outside the intended scope, provided that limitation is clearly stated in your response. If searching all fields would exceed the cost limit, a search of the MO/method field alone is acceptable. A single combined count covering both (a) and (b) is acceptable where the search cannot distinguish between them.

If the estimated cost of complying with the request as a whole would exceed the appropriate limit under Section 12, please treat the following as my preferred refinement of the request, to the extent necessary to bring it within the limit: first (a), then (b), then the free-text search in (d), and finally (c), and, within each element, the most recent years first. If further refinement is required, I would welcome advice and assistance under Section 16 before the request is refused.

I am content for counts below 5 to be reported as "<5". Where individual annual counts are reported as "<5", please also consider providing the unsuppressed total across the full 2021–2025 (or 2021/22–2025/26) period, where this can be disclosed without creating an identification or other disclosure risk.

If easily stated without further searching, please also indicate:

— Which offence classification(s) each count falls under; and

— Whether "ram raid"-type incidents are recorded under a specific MO, attack-method or method-of-entry code at your force.

SP received your request on 05/08/2026 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 Question A there has been over 6,870 occurrences for your requested time period where the offence is recorded as Burglary Business and Community Business Robbery. Each occurrence would need to be manually reviewed to determine if a vehicle was used to breach the premises. Likewise, for Question B for January 2025 alone there has been over 6,710 crimes, to determine if an ATM was used and if the vehicle was used to breach the premises each occurrence would have to be reviewed. Lastly, Question C for your requested time period there has been over 31,970 occurrences recorded as criminal damage, to determine if this related to EV charging point and the damage included vehicle impact each occurrence 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 question for each record to answer this request, this would equate to a at least 759 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 you in refining your request, data could be provided from the SP crime/occurrence recording database from 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2025 broken down by year for all crimes where the Modus Operandi contains any of the following terms or phrases:

- "ram raid"
- "ram-raid"
- "ramraid"
- "rammed the shutter"
- "rammed the door"
- "drove through the shopfront"
- "drove through the shop front"
- "vehicle used to gain access"
- "vehicle used in the commission of the crime"

Please note that only crimes where one or more of these terms or phrases has been recorded within the MO would be included in the dataset. Where the term/phrase was not used, these occurrences would not be captured. In addition, 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:



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

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