

14 August 2026

FOI Ref 23244

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

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would be grateful if you could provide the following information for each calendar year from 2021 to the most recent period available.

1. The total number of offences recorded under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991.
2. The total number of offences recorded under Section 3 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 (dog dangerously out of control).
3. The total number of arrests made in connection with offences under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991.
4. The total number of arrests made in connection with Section 3 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 (dog dangerously out of control).
5. Where recorded, the age of the victim, grouped into the following bands:
Under 18
18-24
25-34
35-44
45-54
55-64
65+
6. The number of victims recorded as:
Postal workers, couriers and delivery drivers;
Utility workers, engineers or contractors.
7. The number of dogs seized in connection with Dangerous Dogs Act offences.
8. The number of dogs destroyed in connection with Dangerous Dogs Act offences.
9. Where recorded, the breed or suspected breed involved in the greatest number of recorded offences during the most recent year available.

If any of the requested information is not centrally recorded, please provide any information that is held in a reasonably retrievable format.

If compliance with this request would exceed the cost limit, please provide the information available within that limit and advise how the request may be refined.

I would prefer the information in Excel or CSV format where possible.

SP received your request on 07/08/2026 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 questions 6 and 9 of this request. For the period requested, there have been in excess of 2,800 dangerous dog offences. To ascertain the victim's occupation and the breed of the dog involved, the record for each offence 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 4 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to over 186 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 refine your request, data can be provided for the following two offences in the time period requested;

- 'Owner/person in charge allowing dog to be dangerously out of control in any place in England and Wales (whether or not in a public place) injuring any person or assistance dog – Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Sec 3(1)'
- 'Owner/person in charge of a dog dangerously out of control - no injury - Section 3(1) and (4) of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991'

Data can also be provided for;

- The total number of arrests for the above two offences along with victim age ranges.
- Questions 7 and 8 but only from February 2024 to date as this is when a new recording system was introduced.

All Freedom of Information request responses are published on the SP website although personal details are not included.



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

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