

20 August 2026

FOI Ref 23260

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

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am requesting the following information about recorded offences connected to schools in your force area. I am requesting aggregate numbers only, no personal data, and no information relating to identifiable individuals or specific incidents.

Please provide figures for each of the last three full financial or calendar years (please state which you have used) where held:

1. Whether your force is able to identify recorded offences by location type - specifically, whether offences occurring at school premises can be isolated in your recording system (for example, via a premises or location flag).
2. If so, the number of recorded offences that took place at school premises, broken down by year, and, if readily available, by broad offence type (e.g. violence against the person, possession of a weapon, criminal damage).
3. The number of recorded offences of assault where the victim was a member of school staff (for example, a teacher or teaching assistant), by year, where this information is held or can be identified.
4. The number of recorded offences involving the possession of a bladed article or offensive weapon on school premises, by year, where this information is held.

Format and scope

Where possible, I would be grateful to receive this in a machine-readable format (Excel or CSV).

To help keep this within the appropriate cost limit under section 12 of the Act, I have kept the request narrow and am seeking only aggregate figures. If any single element cannot be answered within the cost limit, please answer the remaining elements — in particular question 1, on whether school-location offences can be identified at all — rather than refusing the request in full. A statement that particular information is not held, or cannot be isolated within your recording system, is itself a valid and helpful response.

SP received your request on 13/08/2026 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

SP's response to your enquiry is as follows:

SP holds some of the requested information.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am requesting the following information about recorded offences connected to schools in your force area. I am requesting aggregate numbers only, no personal data, and no information relating to identifiable individuals or specific incidents. Please provide figures for each of the last three full financial or calendar years (please state which you have used) where held:



1. Whether your force is able to identify recorded offences by location type - specifically, whether offences occurring at school premises can be isolated in your recording system (for example, via a premises or location flag).
- Disclosed: Yes, SP is able to identify recorded offences by location type - specifically, offences occurring at 'school' premises can be isolated in the recording system.
2. If so, the number of recorded offences that took place at school premises, broken down by year, and, if readily available, by broad offence type (e.g. violence against the person, possession of a weapon, criminal damage).
- Disclosed: Please see the attached file entitled, 'FOI 23260 Offences in Schools Data.xlsx'
3. The number of recorded offences of assault where the victim was a member of school staff (for example, a teacher or teaching assistant), by year, where this information is held or can be identified.
- Disclosed: No information held within the search attributes of the crime recording system. (Answered in compliance with the 'Format and scope' proviso of this FOI request)
4. The number of recorded offences involving the possession of a bladed article or offensive weapon on school premises, by year, where this information is held.
- Disclosed: Please see the attached file entitled, 'FOI 23260 Offences in Schools Data.xlsx'

Format and scope

Where possible, I would be grateful to receive this in a machine-readable format (Excel or CSV). To help keep this within the appropriate cost limit under section 12 of the Act, I have kept the request narrow and am seeking only aggregate figures. If any single element cannot be answered within the cost limit, please answer the remaining elements — in particular question 1, on whether school-location offences can be identified at all — rather than refusing the request in full. A statement that particular information is not held, or cannot be isolated within your recording system, is itself a valid and helpful response.

Please note that for question 3, over 1100 violence offences are recorded, for which a manual search would have been required, which would otherwise have necessitated a section 12 response but for the proviso of the 'Format and scope' element of the FOI request.

These figures have been provided to the best of the ability of SP, subject to the limitation of current recording protocols of the crime recording system and software. 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.

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. Consequently, 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

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