

25 August 2026

FOI Ref 23270

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

Please proceed with the amendments:

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.

Original request

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 17/08/2026 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.

- 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.
- Disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 23270 Refinement of FOI 23244 Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 Data'.**

Please note;

- that not all offences may have a victim recorded.
- that these figures have been provided to the best of the ability of SP, subject to the limitation of current recording protocols and systems/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.

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

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 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



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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