

21 August 2026

FOI Ref 23273

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

Please provide me with the following information under the Freedom of Information Act.

How many arrests were made in your police force area related to the drug known as 'monkey dust' (a synthetic cathinone called MDPV - Methylenedioxypyrovalerone) in the years 2023-25 (broken down per year) and 2026 to date?

How many drug seizures were carried out?

2a) How much in £ was this worth/amount to?

If this is carried out by searching crime records with specific words, you can use the words "monkey dust" or "MDPV" or "Methylenedioxypyrovalerone".

Could I have this per calendar year if possible, if not financial year or whichever 12-month reporting period is most easily accessible would be great.

If it is not possible to provide some of the data requested, I would be grateful if you could provide whichever elements of this FOI request are eligible for release.

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:

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 5,900 drug seizures recorded which may have included monkey dust. This is because the recording of the specific drug type is not mandatory within the property record. To determine the number of seizures of monkey dust, and the value of the drugs

seized, the record for each drug seizure 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 491 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.

If your request was refined, SP would be able to provide the following:

Between 01/01/2023 and 17/08/2026, the number of arrests for the following offences (broken down by year):

- Production or being concerned in production of a controlled drug - Class B - Mephedrone including cathinone derivatives
- Supplying or offering to supply or being concerned in the supply of a controlled drug - Class B - Mephedrone including cathinone derivatives
- Possession of a controlled drug - Class B - Mephedrone including cathinone derivatives
- Possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply - Class B - Mephedrone including cathinone derivatives
- Permitting premises to be used for unlawful purposes - Class B - Mephedrone including cathinone derivatives

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 Force's response to the original FOI request.



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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