

27 August 2026

FOI Ref 23297

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

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, concerning data held in your custody records system. Please state, in your response, the name of the system from which the data was extracted, and whether that system changed at any point during the period requested.

For financial years 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26 (and, if within the cost limit, 2021-22 and 2022-23 also — see the note below), broken down by year:

1. The total number of detentions in police custody.
2. The time from a detainee's recorded arrival at the custody suite to the release of the arresting or escorting officer or officers, as a median and as a banded distribution (0–15 minutes, 16–30, 31–60, 61–120, 121+). If officer-release time is not recorded, please instead provide the same measures for the time from recorded arrival to authorisation of detention, and state which measure has been supplied.
3. The number of constant observations (Level 3 constant observation and Level 4 close-proximity observation or supervision, or your force's equivalent) authorised, by level; and, if derivable, the total officer or detention officer hours consumed by constant observations. If hours are not derivable, the counts at this item remain the substantive request.
4. The number of occasions on which a detainee was taken from custody to hospital or an Emergency Department, whether before or after detention was authorised; and, if recorded, the total officer hours spent on hospital escorts and bed watches for detainees. If hours are not recorded, the count remains the substantive request. – THIS QUESTION WAS WITHDRAWN FOLLOWING A CLARIFICATION.
5. The number of designated custody suites operational in your force in each year of the period.

The core of this request is the three most recent financial years, 2023-24 to 2025-26. If the two earlier years, 2021-22 and 2022-23, can also be included within the appropriate cost limit, please include them; if they cannot, please supply the three core years — the earlier years are not a condition of this request and should not be treated as grounds for refusing it. Where a change of records system limits what is held for any year, please supply the years that are available and state which years are affected.

If any part of this request would exceed the cost limit, please treat the numbered items in the order listed and advise under section 16 which items can be answered within the limit. Where a precise metric is not held, please provide the nearest held equivalent and state its definition.

Machine-readable format (CSV or Excel) is preferred.

CLARIFICATION SOUGHT

Q.1 – This can be answered.

Q.2 - Officer-release time is not recorded, therefore instead the time from recorded arrival to authorisation of detention can be supplied. This will be as raw data for each individual custody record.

Q.3 - Hours are not derivable (without a manual review of the records as per Q.4 below), so the counts at this item will remain the substantive request (as you had detailed in your request).

Q.4 – This cannot be answered without a manual review of the records which would invoke a S.12 for the whole request.

Q.5 – This can be answered.

CLARIFICATION RECEIVED

That all works for me. Thank you for clarifying.

SP received your request on 24/08/2026 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.

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, concerning data held in your custody records system. Please state, in your response, the name of the system from which the data was extracted, and whether that system changed at any point during the period requested.

For financial years 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26 (and, if within the cost limit, 2021-22 and 2022-23 also — see the note below), broken down by year:

1. The total number of detentions in police custody.

- Disclosed: Please see the attached file entitled, 'FOI 23297 Custody Records Data.xlsx'

2. The time from a detainee's recorded arrival at the custody suite to the release of the arresting or escorting officer or officers, as a median and as a banded distribution (0–15 minutes, 16–30, 31–60, 61–120, 121+). If officer-release time is not recorded, please instead provide the same measures for the time from recorded arrival to authorisation of detention, and state which measure has been supplied.

- Disclosed: Please see the attached file entitled, 'FOI 23297 Custody Records Data.xlsx'

3. The number of constant observations (Level 3 constant observation and Level 4 close-proximity observation or supervision, or your force's equivalent) authorised, by level; *and, if derivable, the total officer or detention officer hours consumed by constant observations. If hours are not derivable, the counts at this item remain the substantive request.*

- Disclosed: Please see the attached file entitled,

4. The number of occasions on which a detainee was taken from custody to hospital or an Emergency Department, whether before or after detention was authorised; and, if recorded, the total officer hours spent on hospital escorts and bed watches for detainees. If hours are not recorded, the count remains the substantive request.

- Question withdrawn by applicant following clarification.

5. The number of designated custody suites operational in your force in each year of the period.

The core of this request is the three most recent financial years, 2023-24 to 2025-26. If the two earlier years, 2021-22 and 2022-23, can also be included within the appropriate cost limit, please include them; if they cannot, please supply the three core years — the earlier years are not a condition of this request and should not be treated as grounds for refusing it. Where a change of records system limits what is held for any year, please supply the years that are available and state which years are affected.

- Disclosed: For each of the five requested years there were 2 custody suites operational.

If any part of this request would exceed the cost limit, please treat the numbered items in the order listed and advise under section 16 which items can be answered within the limit. Where a precise metric is not held, please provide the nearest held equivalent and state its definition.
Machine-readable format (CSV or Excel) is preferred.

This data has been provided to the best of the ability of SP, subject to the limitation of current recording protocols and systems and software.

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

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.



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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 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