

12 February 2026

FOI Ref 22342

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

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for the period 1st January 2024 to present day.

Please provide:

1. The number of crime scenes attended by Crime Scene Investigators (CSIs) where physical indicators of cryptocurrency or crypto wallets were identified and/or recovered by them. Examples include:
 - o Hardware wallets (such as Ledger or Trezor devices)
 - o Recovery phrases or seed words
 - o QR codes linked to cryptocurrency addresses
 - o Printed or handwritten notes referencing cryptocurrency
 - o Any other physical items clearly associated with cryptocurrency use or storage
2. A breakdown of the types of crimes where such indicators were found (for example, fraud, drug manufacturing, cybercrime).
3. Copies or summaries of any Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) provided to CSIs regarding the identification and handling of cryptocurrency related evidence.
4. Details of any training provided to CSIs on recognising cryptocurrency related evidence.
5. The number of recorded seizures of physical cryptocurrency wallets during CSI attendance.

SP received your request on 08/01/2026 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(2) In order to identify whether information is or is not held would exceed the cost threshold in accordance with Section 12(2) of the Freedom of Information Act as to satisfy S1(1)(a) of the Act would exceed the cost threshold.

The above information has been withheld for the following reasons:

There is no method by which SP can easily identify or locate whether information is held within Staffordshire Police systems to answer this request. The information you require is not stored in a way which allows for easy identification or retrieval. We do not hold any specific searchable records or data sets that identify crime scenes attended by Forensic Investigator's where physical indicators of cryptocurrency (such as hardware wallets, recovery phrases, QR codes, or notes referencing cryptocurrency) were recovered. While such items may have been encountered during routine scene examinations as part of broader investigations, there is no dedicated category or flag in our systems to

identify or extract this information. To establish whether this data is held, a very labour-intensive manual trawl through each record would need to be carried out.

To achieve this task would therefore exceed the 18-hour time and cost threshold of the FOI 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.

Unfortunately, SP cannot suggest a way in which your request could be simplified or pared down to bring it within the confines of the time and cost threshold. We do not hold any information in relation to Forensic Investigator Specific Standard Operating Procedures or formal training materials focused solely on cryptocurrency-related evidence.

Please be advised that 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 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