

2 February 2026

FOI Ref 22416

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

Could you please provide data in response to the following questions:

1. How many road traffic accidents were reported during the last three years? (Broken down by years 2023, 2024, 2025)

1a) If possible, please break down by age of person at fault:

Underage drivers, 16-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70-79, 80-89, 90-99, 100+, unknown (if applicable)

1b) If possible, please break down by month

2. What are the most common causes of traffic accidents reported during the last three years? (Broken down by years 2023, 2024, 2025)

2a) If possible, please break down by age of person at fault:

Underage drivers, 16-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70-79, 80-89, 90-99, 100+, unknown (if applicable)

2b) If possible, please break down by month

3. For each of the following three years, how many people were arrested, and how many were subsequently charged? 2023, 2024, 2025

SP received your request on 19/01/2026 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(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 our systems to answer parts of this request. The dataset does not contain a readily identifiable field that determines person at fault, which is required to provide the age of the person at fault. Establishing fault would require a manual review of the narrative description for each collision, which would involve the review of over 4,700 collision reports. To extract this data would therefore require a very labour-intensive manual trawl through each record. In addition, in relation to question 3, in order to determine the arrests made as a result of these collisions, each record would need to be further reviewed.

From dip sampling, it has been estimated that it would take approximately 5-10 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to between 391 and 783 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:

1. The number of road traffic collisions for the years 2023, 2024 and 2025, broken down by month.
2. The number of individuals who were formally charged for road traffic collisions in 2023, 2024 and 2025.

Furthermore, in relation to your second question (2, 2a and 2b), SP do not record in a single column the cause of a collision. Instead, road safety factors are recorded. Across all months of the three years requested (2023–2025), 'Ineffective observation by driver, rider or pedestrian' was consistently the most frequently recorded road safety factor in reported road collisions containing personal injury.

Please note: 1. Road safety factors are police-reported assessments, not proven causes.
2. Multiple factors can be assigned to a single collision.
3. Trends reflect reporting practices as well as behaviour.

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:



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

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