

4 February 2026

FOI Ref 22428

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

To remove the sole element of the request identified as engaging section 12(1), and to enable the request to proceed in accordance with sections 1 and 16 of the Act, I therefore formally withdraw Question 1 of my original request.

Please proceed to process the refined request for the period January 2024 to January 2026 only, limited to Questions 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 as set out in my letter dated 5 January 2026.

For clarity, the refined request seeks, insofar as the information is held, confirmation of occasions on which police attendance or escort was provided or deemed necessary for railway vehicle movements to or from Froghall Junction during that period; whether such attendance arose from a request by the haulier or from an operational decision taken by Staffordshire Police; whether attendance was treated as chargeable and, if so, whether it was recorded as a Special Police Service or as operational policing; and copies of, or extracts from, any written risk assessments, decision records, internal guidance or charging records relied upon.

SP received your request on 21/01/2026 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

SP's response to your enquiry is as follows:

SP holds some of the requested information.

- To remove the sole element of the request identified as engaging section 12(1), and to enable the request to proceed in accordance with sections 1 and 16 of the Act, I therefore formally withdraw Question 1 of my original request.
- Please proceed to process the refined request for the period January 2024 to January 2026 only, limited to Questions 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 as set out in my letter dated 5 January 2026.
- For clarity, the refined request seeks, insofar as the information is held, confirmation of occasions on which police attendance or escort was provided or deemed necessary for railway vehicle movements to or from Froghall Junction during that period; whether such attendance arose from a request by the haulier or from an operational decision taken by Staffordshire Police; whether attendance was treated as chargeable and, if so, whether it was recorded as a Special Police Service or as operational policing; and copies of, or extracts from, any written risk assessments, decision records, internal guidance or charging records relied upon.
- Original Request



- Request for information relating to police attendance at abnormal load movements to and from Froghall Junction – ST10 2HA.
- Scope of this request
This request is limited as follows:
- Time period: the last three years.
- Location: movements to or from Froghall Junction, Froghall, Staffordshire, ST10 2HA.
- Load type: railway vehicles.
- Authority: records held by Staffordshire Police only.
We are not seeking information about unrelated abnormal load movements, nor sensitive tactical or operational detail.
- Information requested
For the movements and period described above, we request the following information, insofar as it is held:
 - 1. Confirmation of each occasion on which an STGO notification was received by Staffordshire Police in relation to movements to or from Froghall Junction. – **Question withdrawn.**
 - 2. Confirmation of whether police attendance or escort was provided, or deemed necessary, for each such movement. – **Disclosed, from January 2024 – January 2026, 6 abnormal load movements either from or to Froghall ST10 2HA were deemed necessary for a police escort.**
 - 1 – 21/05/2024 – Police escort provided.**
 - 2 – 17/04/2025 – Police escort planned – did not go ahead as abnormal load vehicle had catastrophic breakdown leaving Froghall site. Escort rearranged for 29/04/2025.**
 - 3 – 29/04/2025 – Rearranged police escort was cancelled by the haulier the evening before (28/04/2025) due to mechanical fault on abnormal load vehicle. Escort rearranged for 15/05/2025.**
 - 4 – 15/05/2025 – Police escort provided.**
 - 5 – 17/06/2025 – Police escort planned – cancelled on the day by police due to several tyre defects on the abnormal load trailer which were not road legal. Abnormal load trailer prohibited via PG9 until tyre defects rectified.**
 - 6 – 01/09/2025 – Police escort planned for 3 abnormal load movements (x2 into Froghall & x1 out of Froghall) – 2 abnormal load movements into Froghall were cancelled by the haulier on 30/08/2025 due to an underground mains cable blow up at the origin site of the movement. The abnormal load movement out of Froghall still went ahead as planned.**
 - 3. Confirmation of whether police attendance was provided following:
 - a specific request made by the haulier; or
 - an operational decision taken by Staffordshire Police following receipt of the notification from the haulier. – **Partially disclosed,**



- 1 – 21/05/2024 – no past correspondence available to confirm whether this was a police or haulier request.
- 2 – 17/04/2025 – no past correspondence available to confirm whether this was a police or haulier request.
- 3 – 29/04/2025 – no past correspondence available to confirm whether this was a police or haulier request.
- 4 – 15/05/2025 – police request for a police escort to be provided.
- 5 – 17/06/2025 – haulier request for police escort to be provided.
- 6 – 01/09/2025 – haulier request for police escort to be provided.

- 4. Where police attendance was treated as chargeable, confirmation of whether there is a record showing that the haulier stated that the movement would not proceed unless police officers were present i.e. this was requested by the haulier or whether this was in fact notified as being required by the police. – **Partially disclosed, all 6 escorts provided by police were chargeable as per NPCC SPS Charging Guidelines. No further information held in relation to whether the movement would or would not proceed unless police officers were present.**
- 5. Confirmation of whether police attendance was classified as a Special Police Service or as operational policing in each case. – **Disclosed, all 6 escorts provided were classified as Special Police Service.**
- 6. Copies of, or extracts from, any written risk assessments, decision records or internal guidance relied upon when determining that a police escort was required for these movements. – **No information held.**
- 7. Copies of, or extracts from, any records showing charges raised to hauliers in connection with police attendance at these movements (with personal data, vehicle registrations, routes, timings and other sensitive details redacted as necessary). - **Partially disclosed,**
 - 1 – 21/05/2024 – Police escort provided.
 - 2 – 17/04/2025 – Police escort planned – did not go ahead as abnormal load vehicle had catastrophic breakdown leaving Froghall site. Escort rearranged for 29/04/2025 - £2,308.33.
 - 3 – 29/04/2025 – Rearranged police escort was cancelled by the haulier the evening before (28/04/2025) due to mechanical fault on abnormal load vehicle. Escort rearranged for 15/05/2025 - £3,171.24.
 - 4 – 15/05/2025 – Police escort provided - £3,592.75.
 - 5 – 17/06/2025 – Police escort planned – cancelled on the day by police due to several tyre defects on the abnormal load trailer which were not road legal. Abnormal load trailer prohibited via PG9 until tyre defects rectified - £3,614.05.
 - 6 – 01/09/2025 – Police escort planned for 3 abnormal load movements (x2 into Froghall & x1 out of Froghall) – 2 abnormal load movements into Froghall were cancelled by the haulier on 30/08/2025 due to an underground mains cable blow up at the origin site of the movement. The abnormal load movement out of Froghall still went ahead as planned - £2,331.28.

No contract and costs are available for the police escort provided on 21/05/2024 as the Applications for Services of Police Officer(s) for Special Duty did not come into force until 2025.

- Clarification regarding escort criteria

For clarity, we also seek explanation of the following matters, which arise directly from the rationale set out in the June 2024 correspondence.

The correspondence indicates that police escorts are required because vehicles of this size cannot traverse parts of the route without crossing centre line markings or otherwise breaching road traffic legislation, and that only police officers have the legal powers to manage traffic in such circumstances. The tractor and trailer combination used for these movements remains materially the same dimensions whether travelling loaded or empty.

Accordingly, we request clarification of:

- 8. On what basis police escorts have been required or provided when the vehicle is loaded, but not required or provided when the same vehicle travels empty; and – **Withheld, please see the below exemption and advice and assistance.**
- 9. Whether the determining factor in requiring a police escort is the physical dimensions of the vehicle, the presence of a load, or some other recorded criteria. – **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying files titled 'FOI 22428 Abnormal Load Inbox Auto-reply' and 'FOI 22428 Police Escort Signature', please see the below exemption and advice and assistance.**

Please be advised that the data provided is from January 2024 to January 2026.

Please be advised that all Freedom of Information request responses are published on the SP website although personal details are not included.

The following exemptions have been applied:

In accordance with Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, this letter represents a refusal notice for parts of this request.

- Section 21(1) - Information reasonably accessible by other means.

Section 21 is an absolute, class-based exemption and as such there is no requirement to quantify the harm that may arise from the disclosure, nor is there a requirement to perform a Public Interest Test.

- Section 40(2) Personal Information

Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption which means that there is no need to quantify the harm that may arise from the disclosure; neither is it subject to a public interest test.

To release personal or third-party information held by SP, would breach the data protection principles; namely –

- Data is lawfully and fairly processed.
- Processed in line with an individual's rights.
- Data is secure.

Personal and third-party information cannot be released under the Freedom of Information Act.

Disclosure under Freedom of Information is a release of information to the world in general and not an individual applicant.



Advice and assistance

In order to comply with our obligations under Section 16 of the Act, the obligation to provide advice and assistance, please find below links to the information requested.

- [Lighting and marking COP for SO VR1 STGO and CU loads – page 12](#)

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 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



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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