

17 February 2026

FOI Ref 22429

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

Please provide the following for each of the last three financial years (2021/22, 2022/23, 202/24) and the current year to date, broken down by year.

1. Police referrals to immigration enforcement

a. The total number of cases in which your force shared information with, or made a referral to, any of the following:

- Home Office Immigration Enforcement
- UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI)
- Border Force

b. Of the above, how many related to:

- Allegations of criminal offending (where no charge was ultimately brought)
- Allegations that were later withdrawn
- Arrests that did not result in charge
- Charged cases

2. Arrests and immigration impact

a. The number of individuals arrested by your force who were subsequently subject to:

- Immigration detention
- Immigration bail conditions
- Removal proceedings

b. Of those arrested but not charged, how many still became a subject to immigration action?

3. Disclosure to the Home Office/courts

a. The number of occasions on which your force provided material to the Home Office for the purpose of:

- Visa decisions
- Leave to remain decisions
- Deportation or removal proceedings
- Immigration bail hearings

b. The average time taken to provide such disclosure from the date of the request.

4. Data accuracy and corrections

a. The number of instances in which information your force supplied to the Home Office was later corrected, amended, or withdrawn.

b. The reasons for such corrections (categorised, if possible, e.g. inaccurate record, misidentification, case dropped).

5. Complaints and oversight

a. The number of complaints received relating to:

- Inaccurate immigration related disclosure
- Unlawful or disproportionate information sharing with immigration authorities
- Failure to disclose exculpatory information.

b. Of those complaints, how many were:

- Upheld
- Partially upheld
- Not upheld



6. Policy and Safeguards

a. Please confirm whether your force has a written policy governing:

- Information sharing with immigration authorities
- Disclosure where there has been no charge or conviction
- Consideration of family or human rights impacts before disclosure

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:

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 question 1 of this request. There is no central repository or database for Police referrals to Immigration Enforcement. SP do not class every case as a referral and do not collate every communication with agencies as it is an ongoing task for our foreign national offending team to chase and share information relating to persons whom we have contact with. SP also do not keep data on the sub-categories of custody outcomes. This would therefore require a very labour-intensive manual trawl to establish the data being requested for question 1. 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.

To be able to refine your request, data can be provided for part of question 2 in relation to the number of arrests relating to immigration offences and immigration bail conditions from April 2021 to March 2024. Data can also be provided for questions 5 and 6 although further exemptions may be applied.

With regards to question 3, this data is not held in a countable way, the processes requested are for immigration services to manage and not the Police. You may wish to contact Immigration Compliance and Enforcement Teams via the following link [Contact details for immigration compliance and enforcement teams - GOV.UK](#). With regards to question 4, SP would not hold this information. Once the information is provided the responsibility for its use, destruction and security lie with the receiving agency.

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/>



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

Freedom of Information
Information Access Team

A safe and confident Staffordshire