

4 February 2026

FOI Ref 22468

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

I wish to raise a formal concern regarding a police operation conducted this morning at the junction of Rectory Lane, Pike Lane, and Rugeley Road.

This concern is submitted on the basis of operational decision-making and public safety considerations, rather than as an allegation of individual misconduct.

Information requested

I respectfully request confirmation of, and access to where appropriate, the following documentation associated with this operation:

The risk assessment undertaken prior to the operation

The criteria and rationale used to select this specific location

Any documented consideration of traffic management, pedestrian safety, and officer safety relating to the site

Grounds for concern

During the operation, multiple police personnel were observed stepping into the carriageway and repeatedly crossing between two lay-bys. These lay-bys converge at the base of Rectory Lane and Pike Lane, forming part of an already complex and constrained junction that feeds directly onto Rugeley Road.

This location presents established and foreseeable risks, including:

Converging traffic flows with limited visibility and varying vehicle speeds

One lay-by serving a busy Londis convenience store with frequent vehicle movements

The same lay-by operating as a bus stop, introducing regular stopping vehicles and pedestrian activity

Given these factors, the use of this location - particularly with officers entering live traffic lanes - appeared to materially increase risk to both police personnel and members of the public.

Scope and intent of the concern

For clarity:

I am not alleging unlawful conduct or negligence by individual officers



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

I am seeking to understand whether the operational risk was appropriately assessed and mitigated

My concern relates specifically to site suitability and advance planning, in light of known hazards

Outcome sought

I would welcome:

Confirmation that a formal risk assessment and site evaluation were completed

An explanation of how this location was assessed as suitable for the activity undertaken

Assurance that lessons learned will be applied to future operations at similarly high-risk junctions

SP received your request on 30/01/2026 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

SP's response to your enquiry is as follows:

SP does not hold the requested information.

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 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 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