

6 February 2026

FOI Ref 22485

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

Please provide an anonymised spreadsheet (Excel or CSV) containing all recorded rape offences (including attempts) in Staffordshire from 1 January 2020 up to 31 December 2025.

For each offence, please include the following fields (or the closest equivalent held on your records management system):

1. Financial/crime year (or date of recording/offence)
2. Victim ethnicity (preferably using the 16+1 or 18+1 self-defined codes, or just White, Asian, Black, Mixed, Other if former not available)
3. Victim age band (e.g. "Under 18" / "18 or over" / actual age if banded differently)
4. Suspect/offender ethnicity (same coding as victim)
5. Suspect/offender age band (same as above)
6. Victim-offender relationship (e.g. Stranger, Partner, Ex-partner, Parent, Acquaintance, Family member, No suspect identified, etc.)
7. Police district / borough / local policing unit / Basic Command Unit

Essentially a chart that looks exactly like this, as presented to me when I submitted an FOI to West Yorkshire Police:

<https://i.ibb.co/Kx62fhpD/Screenshot-2025-12-15-at-23-54-53.png>

I am content for personal identifiers to be redacted and for small cell counts to be suppressed if required for Data Protection reasons, but I do not require full anonymisation beyond that. If the request exceeds costs, give me ways it can be reduced to an acceptable level.

If the data provided is only available in separate tables as opposed to a long spreadsheet like West Yorkshire Police provided, also provide an extra table featuring an ethnic/racial breakdown of rape offences (ignoring other sexual offences) with both the victim and the assailant. For example how many White victims were attacked by Asian suspects, how many Black victims were attacked by White suspects, how many Other victims were attacked by Black suspects e.g.

Something like this chart from the United States for instance:

<https://i.ibb.co/rfMc8s2h/Screenshot-2025-11-23-at-22-48-44.png>

SP received your request on 04/02/2026 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 6 of this request. For the time period requested, there have been in excess of 6,900 rape/attempted rape occurrences, in order to ascertain the relationship between the victim and the suspect, the record for each offence would require a manual review. To extract this data would therefore require a very labour-intensive manual trawl through each record.

From dip sampling, it has been estimated that it would take approximately 3 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to over 345 hours. 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.

In order to refine your request, data can be provided for questions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7 where data has been recorded. Please be advised that data may be provided in uncorrelated tables to avoid identification and that further exemptions may be applied.

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](mailto:IAT@staffordshire.police.uk)

Or by Post to:



STAFFORDSHIRE  
**POLICE**

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