

20 February 2026

FOI Ref 22491

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

With regard to the recording of crime data relating to suspects, offenders, witnesses and victims, please provide:

1. Clarification of which of the following characteristics you record:
 - a. Sex
 - b. Gender
 - c. Gender identity
 - d. Gender reassignment
2. Include the definitions of the above categories at a-d currently used by your force.
3. Provide your policy guidelines for the categories that you record.
4. Clarify on what basis the recording of sex is based. If based upon self definition by the person concerned only, please specify this. If any other factor applies, please specify this.
5. Provide a copy of any communication to your staff regarding the implementation and application of this policy/guidance.
6. With specific regard to the recording of crime data in relation to rape offences, specify on what basis the sex of the offender is recorded. For clarity, if recorded on the basis of self definition by the alleged offender, please specify this.
7. Provide your crime data for rapes reported Jan 2025-Jan 2026 to include number of rapes reported, total number of offenders recorded, breakdown of offenders by sex.

SP received your request on 06/02/2026 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.

- With regard to the recording of crime data relating to suspects, offenders, witnesses and victims, please provide:
 1. Clarification of which of the following characteristics you record:
 - a. Sex
 - b. Gender
 - c. Gender identity
 - d. Gender reassignment
 - **Disclosed, currently in crime recording, SP record the sex and gender identity of a victim, witness, suspect or offender.**
- 2. Include the definitions of the above categories at a-d currently used by your force.
 - **Partially disclosed, SP follow the guidance set out in ADR 153 "that sex should be recorded in line with information on the individual's birth certificate or gender recognition**

certificate". 2025/26 Annual Data Requirement from Police Forces in England & Wales. SP do not hold a definition in relation to gender identity.

- 3. Provide your policy guidelines for the categories that you record. – **Partially disclosed, as above in question 2 with regard to sex. SP do not hold any policy guidelines in relation to gender identity.**
- 4. Clarify on what basis the recording of sex is based. If based upon self definition by the person concerned only, please specify this. If any other factor applies, please specify this. – **Disclosed, as above in question 2 with regard to sex, no other factors apply. Gender identity is based on self-definition of the individual.**
- 5. Provide a copy of any communication to your staff regarding the implementation and application of this policy/guidance. – **No information held.**
- 6. With specific regard to the recording of crime data in relation to rape offences, specify on what basis the sex of the offender is recorded. For clarity, if recorded on the basis of self definition by the alleged offender, please specify this. – **Disclosed, as above in question 2, this applies to all offences including rape.**
- 7. Provide your crime data for rapes reported Jan 2025-Jan 2026 to include number of rapes reported, total number of offenders recorded, breakdown of offenders by sex. – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 22491 Gender Recording Data'.**

Please note that this data has been provided to the best of the ability of SP, subject to the limitation of current recording protocols and systems/software. Additional offences may have been recorded during these timescales but are awaiting finalisation and input onto these systems and would not be present within this dataset.

Every effort is made to ensure that the data presented is accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that this has been extracted from multiple sources, developed for specific policing purposes, for which data extraction methods have not been specifically designed to directly correlate with the terminology of this request. Therefore, the data presented is subject to the inaccuracies and idiosyncrasies inherent in any large-scale recording system.

Consequently, care should be taken in the interpretation and presentation of this data, to not misrepresent the whole or any part of the data disclosed.

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 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