

12 February 2026

FOI Ref 22492

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

Please provide the following information for the period 1 January 2025 - 31 December 2025.

1. Do you record 'parental conflict' as a risk factor / vulnerability marker or equivalent in your missing children reports?
2. If the answer to question 1 is yes, please tell us:
 - a. How many missing incidents were reported in relation to missing children (those aged 0-17)?
 - b. In how many of those incidents was 'parental conflict' identified?
3. If the answer to 1 is no, please tell us:
 - a. Do you routinely record another type of risk factor / vulnerability marker that is similar or equivalent to parental conflict? If so, please list those here
 - b. How many missing incidents were reported in relation to missing children (those aged 0-17)?
 - c. In how many of those incidents was / were the answer(s) to 3a identified?

11 The definition of parental conflict is: Some level of arguing and conflict between parents is often a normal part of everyday life. However, there is strong evidence to show how inter-parental conflict that is frequent, intense and poorly resolved can have a significant negative impact on children's mental health and long-term life chances.

Damaging conflict between parents can be expressed in many ways such as:

- * unresolved arguing
- * silence
- * lack of respect
- * lack of resolution

Conflict can affect children in all types of parental relationships, including:

- * parents who are in a relationship, whether married or not
- * parents who have separated or divorced
- * biological and step parents
- * other family members playing a parenting role
- * foster and adoptive parents
- * same-sex couples

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 the requested information.

- 1. Do you record 'parental conflict' as a risk factor / vulnerability marker or equivalent in your missing children reports? – **Disclosed, no.**
- 2. If the answer to question 1 is yes, please tell us:
 - a. How many missing incidents were reported in relation to missing children (those aged 0-17)? – **Not applicable.**

- b. In how many of those incidents was 'parental conflict' identified? – **Not applicable.**
- 3. If the answer to 1 is no, please tell us:
 - a. Do you routinely record another type of risk factor / vulnerability marker that is similar or equivalent to parental conflict? If so, please list those here – **Disclosed, 'family conflict - Are there family or relationship problems or a recent history of family conflict and/or abuse?'**
 - b. How many missing incidents were reported in relation to missing children (those aged 0-17)? – **Disclosed, 3175.**
 - c. In how many of those incidents was / were the answer(s) to 3a identified? – **Disclosed, 955.**

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.

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:

IAT@staffordshire.police.uk

Or by Post to:

Information Access Team
Staffordshire Police HQ
PO Box 3167
Stafford



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

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