



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

17 February 2026

FOI Ref 22521

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

For 2024 and 2025, please provide the following information for the offence codes listed below
For each offence I would like the:

1. Month / Year
2. Animal involved
3. summary of the MO test (redacted)
4. location
5. Offence Outcome

121/13 - Hunting a wild mammal with dogs
121/13 - Knowingly permit dog to be used for hunting a wild mammal
121/14 - Knowingly permit land to be entered / used for hunting a wild mammal with dogs
121/20 - Control / handle dog in the course of / for the purposes of a hare coursing event
097/04 - Administer a poisonous / injurious drug / substance to a protected animal
108/32 - Administer a poisonous / injurious drug / substance to a protected animal - Animal Welfare Act 2006
108/29 - Aid and abet the causing of unnecessary suffering to a protected animal
122/07 - Allow animal to stray on a highway
108/36 - Breach a disqualification imposed after conviction - Animal Welfare Act 2006
099/99 - Bring animals / animal products / genetic material in breach of declaration to suspend / impose conditions on import
097/02 - Cause the carrying out of a prohibited procedure on a protected animal
097/01 - Cause unnecessary suffering to a protected animal
108/29 - Cause unnecessary suffering to a protected animal - Animal Welfare Act 2006
108/24 - Cause use of weapon to kill / take schedule 6 wild animal
197/01 - Damage / destroy a breeding site / resting place of a wild animal of a European protected species
108/23 - Damage / destroy schedule 5 wild animal shelter
119/01 - Daytime trespass in pursuit of game - poaching
197/01 - Disturb a wild animal of a European protected species
108/23 - Disturb sheltering schedule 5 wild animal
108/34 - Duty of person responsible for animal to ensure welfare - Animal Welfare Act 2006
108/24 - Fail to inspect snare for wild animal every day
108/23 - Intentionally / recklessly disturb schedule 5 wild animal - dolphin / whale / shark
108/23 - Kill a schedule 5 wild animal
108/23 - Obstruct access to schedule 5 wild animal shelter
195/99 - Produce / exhibit / supply a film involving the infliction of pain / terror / goading of an animal
098/98 - Release an invasive alien species of animal into the wild / allow to escape
097/04 - Responsible for a protected animal permit / cause another to administer a poison
097/01 - Responsible person fail to prevent the causing of unnecessary suffering to an animal
108/29 - Responsible person fail to prevent the causing of unnecessary suffering to an animal - Animal Welfare Act 2006
108/24 - Use snare / weapon to kill / take wild animal

If redacting the MO Text would exceed the appropriate limit under Section 12 then please remove c)

SP received your request on 11/02/2026 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.

- For 2024 and 2025, please provide the following information for the offence codes listed below
For each offence I would like the:
- 1. Month / Year – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 22521 Animal Cruelty Cases Data'.**
- 2. Animal involved – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 22521 Animal Cruelty Cases Data'.**
- 3. summary of the MO test (redacted) – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 22521 Animal Cruelty Cases Data'.**
- 4. location – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 22521 Animal Cruelty Cases Data'.**
- 5. Offence Outcome – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 22521 Animal Cruelty Cases Data'.**

Please be advised this data has been disaggregated to avoid individuals being identified. Furthermore, please be advised that we only have the offence '097/01 - 99 - Causing, permitting or failing to prevent unnecessary suffering of protected animal - Animal Welfare Act 2006 4 (1) (2) 32 (1) and the offences are nil.

Please note that there are 4 offences that are still being investigated so with regard to these cases we are citing Section 30(1)(a)(b) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Investigations conducted by Public Authorities.

The following exemption has been applied:

In accordance with Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, this letter represents a refusal notice for this particular request.

- Section 30(1)(a)(b) – Criminal Investigations

Section 30 is qualified and class based and, as such, we are required to apply the public interest test.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring disclosure under Section 30(1)(a)(b)

Disclosure of the information would improve the public's knowledge and understanding of the investigatory process and, as all police investigations are publicly funded, would show how public funds are being spent.

Factors favouring non-disclosure under Section 30(1)(a)(b)

Disclosure of the requested information would prejudice how investigations are carried out in the future. SP is charged with enforcing the law, preventing and detecting crime and protecting the communities we serve. Any release of information relating to ongoing investigations could prejudice and undermine those investigations. The prevention and detection of such matters could therefore be hindered and therefore risk interference with evidence, which could have detrimental impact on future investigations. In addition, the right to a fair trial could be undermined.

Balance test

Disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act is a release of information to the world in general and not an individual applicant. Having considered the public interest factors we are required to determine whether on balance the factors favouring disclosure outweigh those which are against disclosure. It is our view that the factors favouring disclosure do not outweigh those which favour non-disclosure.

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



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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, taking into account 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