

20 February 2026

FOI Ref 22527

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

Under the FOI Act, please can you provide me with the following information for 'making off without payment' offence under the Theft Act 1978.

Q1: Provide me with the full list of 'making off without payment' offences reported to the force which contained the word 'pub' or 'restaurant' in the summary in 2025.
For each report, include the date, summary and outcome.

Q2: Provide me with the full list of 'making off without payment' offences reported to the force which contained the word 'pub' or 'restaurant' in the summary in 2024.
For each report, include the date, summary and outcome.

Q3: Provide me with the full list of 'making off without payment' offences reported to the force which contained the word 'pub' or 'restaurant' in the summary in 2024.
For each report, include the date, summary and outcome.

Clarification received from applicant 17/02/2026

Thank you for flagging, please ignore q 3

SP received your request on 13/02/2026 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.

- Q1: Provide me with the full list of 'making off without payment' offences reported to the force which contained the word 'pub' or 'restaurant' in the summary in 2025.
For each report, include the date, summary and outcome. – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 22527 Making Off Without Payment Offences Data'**
- Q2: Provide me with the full list of 'making off without payment' offences reported to the force which contained the word 'pub' or 'restaurant' in the summary in 2024.
For each report, include the date, summary and outcome. – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 22527 Making Off Without Payment Offences Data'**
- Q3: Provide me with the full list of 'making off without payment' offences reported to the force which contained the word 'pub' or 'restaurant' in the summary in 2024.
For each report, include the date, summary and outcome. – **Question Withdrawn.**

Please be advised this data has been disaggregated to avoid individuals being identified. Furthermore, please note that the data presented has been retrieved by conducting a free text search of the crime/occurrence recording system for the following terms within the occurrence record MO – 'pub' or 'restaurant'.

This type of search is subjective and is reliant upon the key term or phrase appearing within the specific field of search.

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.

Please note that there is 1 offence that is still being investigated so regarding this case SP 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 request.

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

Section 30 is qualified and class based and, as such, SP 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 conducted in the future. SP is charged with enforcing the law, preventing, and detecting crime and protecting the communities SP 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 SP 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 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