

27 February 2026

FOI Ref 22552

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

c. Correspondence with suppliers of hearing protection devices and any other documentation relating to the supply of hearing protection devices, including the supply and maintenance of hearing protection pursuant to Regulation 10 of the Noise at Work Regulations 1989;

d. Minutes of joint works and safety committee meetings dealing with hazardous noise;

e. All documents arising out of or relating to noise surveys carried out at the employers premises, both locally and nationally, including noise assessments carried out pursuant to Regulation 4 (1) and 4 (2) of the Noise at Work Regulations 1989

f. Copies of all communications with the Health and Safety Executive or Factory Inspectorate about hazardous noise;

g. All documentation arising out of or relating to the Defendants knowledge of the risks of hazardous noise, and the measures taken to combat the same for the premises where our Client was required to work and at other companies within the Defendants group of companies, including their policy documents and regarding noise and its reduction and the prevention of hearing loss to its workforce;

h. Documents showing the steps taken by employers to reduce the risk of injury to hearing other than by the supply of hearing protection, including steps pursuant to Regulation 5 of the Noise at Work Regulations 1989 (such documents would include those relating to improvements in architectural design, acoustic treatment of walls and ceilings and change in design of noisy machines);

i. Documentation in relation to the provision of information, instruction and training to employees, including that pursuant to Regulation 11 of the Noise at Work Regulations 1989, Regulation 8 of the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1992 and Regulation 10 of the Management of Health & safety at Work Regulations;

j. Risk assessment pursuant to Regulation 3 of the Management of Health and Safety at Work regulations 1992.

SP received your request on 19/02/2026 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 the information from our systems to answer this request. To provide correspondence with suppliers of hearing protection, safety committee minutes, noise surveys and assessments, communications with the Health and Safety Equipment, policy documents, architectural and engineering noise-reduction measures, training records, and risk assessments. Each team would need to be contacted individually. Every team would then be required to manually locate and review documents, which may amount to hundreds of records, in order to determine whether they fall within the scope of the request and whether they relate specifically to hazardous noise.

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.

Unfortunately, SP cannot suggest a way in which your request could be simplified or pared down to bring it within the confines of the time and cost threshold.

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