

20 February 2026

FOI Ref 22561

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

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide information regarding support and safety planning offered following Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (DVDS / "Clare's Law") disclosures within your force.

Please provide the data for the most recent 12 months (or last financial year), plus if readily available at no extra cost, please also provide the same for the previous year. If you hold it in a different reporting format (calendar year/financial year), please use what you hold.

1. Volume of disclosures For each period, please provide:
  - Total number of DVDS applications received (Right to Ask), and total number of proactive enquiries (Right to Know), if recorded.
  - Total number of DVDS disclosures made (i.e., where information was disclosed).
2. Support offered at/after disclosure For each period, for people who received a DVDS disclosure, please provide:
  - Number and percentage who were offered referral/signposting to specialist domestic abuse support (e.g., IDVA service, local domestic abuse service, victim support), if recorded.
  - Number and percentage who accepted that offer (or were referred), if recorded.
  - Number and percentage who were successfully contacted/engaged by the support service following referral (if the force records this outcome).
  - If the force uses specific categories (e.g., IDVA, ISVA, Victim Support, MARAC referral, children's services, housing), please break the figures down by category as recorded.
3. Safety planning / follow-up by police For each period, please provide (if recorded):
  - Number and percentage where a safety plan was completed/provided (or "safety advice" recorded).
  - Average and median time from (a) application to (b) disclosure decision to (c) disclosure delivery.
  - Number and percentage where there was any recorded follow-up contact by police within: 48 hours, 7 days, or 28 days after the disclosure (please provide whichever time bands you record). Please advise if this search will exceed the cost limit.
4. Recording and policy
  - Copies of any current force policy/SOP, guidance, or checklist used by staff that covers post-disclosure safeguarding, referrals, and follow-up under DVDS (redact names/emails if needed).
  - The definition(s) or codes used on force systems to record: "support offered", "referral made", "referral accepted", "engagement/uptake", and "safety planning".

**Format and clarifications**

- Please provide the information in CSV or Excel where possible.
- I am not requesting any personal data; aggregated figures are sufficient.
- If any part of this request exceeds the FOI cost limit, please advise how it could be narrowed to fall within the limit.

SP received your request on 20/02/2026 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 information from our systems to answer questions 2 and 3 of this request. From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025 to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026 there have been in excess of 1,760 applications. In order to ascertain the support offered after disclosure, and safety planning, the record for each occurrence would require a manual review. To extract this data would therefore require a very labour-intensive manual trawl through each record.

From dip sampling, it has been estimated that it would take approximately 10 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to over 293 hours. 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.

In order to assist in refining your request, we can provide data from 01/01/2025 to 31/01/2026 for the number of DVDS applications received, broken down into Right to Know and Right to Ask categories. This can include the number of days each application took to process, as well as the policy and guidance SP follow.

Please note, we do not record percentage data.

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.



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## **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](mailto: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