

23 February 2026

FOI Ref 22564

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

Thank you for your advice and assistance regarding my request (Ref 22561). To ensure this falls within the cost limit, I am refining my request to match the suggestions provided in your response:

1. Data for 01/01/2025 to 31/01/2026:

- The total number of DVDS applications received, broken down into Right to Know and Right to Ask categories.

2. Data for January 2025 only:

- For the disclosures made during this month, please provide the number of cases where a referral to a specialist domestic abuse support service (e.g., IDVA) was recorded.
- For the same month, the number of cases where a formal safety plan or safety advice was recorded as delivered.

3. Policy and Guidance:

- A copy of the force policy and guidance for staff regarding the DVDS process.

I would prefer to receive this data in Excel format.

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:

SP holds the requested information.

1. Data for 01/01/2025 to 31/01/2026:

- The total number of DVDS applications received, broken down into Right to Know and Right to Ask categories. – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 22564 Refinement of FOI 22561 Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme Data'.**

2. Data for January 2025 only:

- For the disclosures made during this month, please provide the number of cases where a referral to a specialist domestic abuse support service (e.g., IDVA) was recorded.
- For the same month, the number of cases where a formal safety plan or safety advice was recorded as delivered. – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 22564 Refinement of FOI 22561 Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme Data'.**

Please be advised for all 49 disclosures, all applications received support referrals and a formal safety plan or safety advice.

3. Policy and Guidance:

- A copy of the force policy and guidance for staff regarding the DVDS process.- **Withheld, please see below.**

I would prefer to receive this data in Excel format. – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 22564 Refinement of FOI 22561 Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme Data'.**



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 parts of this particular request.

- Section 21(1) - Information reasonably accessible by other means.

Section 21 is an absolute, class-based exemption and as such there is no requirement to quantify the harm that may arise from the disclosure, nor is there a requirement to perform a Public Interest Test.

Advice and assistance

In order to comply with our obligations under Section 16 of the Act, the obligation to provide advice and assistance, please find below links to the information requested.

- [Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme \(DVDS\) Statutory Guidance](#)
- [Domestic violence disclosure scheme 'Clare's Law'](#)

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



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

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 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