



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

Our Ref: FOI: 22101
Your Ref: FOI: 22027
Date: 27 January 2026

Further to Staffordshire Police's (SP) Internal Review response sent on 12th November 2025, SP are now partly revising their response.

Your initial FOI request, submitted on 29th October 2025 (ref 22027) was as follows:

I am writing on behalf of a volunteer research team investigating a Staffordshire cold case still open after more than 50 years.

As a member of this research team, I hereby formally submit an FOI request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for all recorded information held by Staffordshire Police relating to the case commonly referred to as "Fred the Head", that of a man whose skeletal remains were discovered in a shallow grave on the site of an old flint mill off Newton Road near the River Trent (Winhill / Burton-upon-Trent) on 26th March 1971.

The investigation was originally led by DCI [REDACTED] (under Detective Chief Superintendent [REDACTED] and afterwards by DCI [REDACTED]. In March 2021, DCI [REDACTED] was interviewed in the latest of three BBC Crimewatch episodes about this specific case and he assured viewers that "unsolved murders are never closed." Our team of volunteers - relying on material in the public domain - has managed to accrue a good deal of new information, some of which casts doubt upon accounts given by key witnesses at the time, and it is our fervent hope that you can help us progress further towards a solution.

This request specifically includes:

- Incident or occurrence logs,*
- Investigation reports,*
- Witness statements (especially - but not limited to - those given by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED],*
- Forensic reports and photographs,*
- Any subsequent review or cold-case re-examination documents*
- The name of whoever currently has investigatory primacy for this case (SIO or team) since DCI [REDACTED] moved on from the Staffordshire police.*

SP revised response:

- Incident or occurrence logs,*
No information held.
- Investigation reports,*
S30(1)(a)(b) and s40(2) - no change to original response.
- Witness statements (especially - but not limited to - those given by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED],*
S30(1)(a)(b) and s40(2) - no change to original response.
- Forensic reports and photographs,*
S30(1)(a)(b) – and s40(2) - no change to original response.
- Any subsequent review or cold-case re-examination documents*



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S30(1)(a)(b) - and s40(2) - no change to original response.

- *The name of whoever currently has investigatory primacy for this case (SIO or team) since DCI [REDACTED] moved on from the Staffordshire police.*
There is no specific SIO, but the enquiry is owned by the SP Major Incident Department (MID).

Kind regards

Information Access Team Management
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