

8 January 2026

FOI Ref 22227

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

On Thursday November 20th, the following officers attended Audley Parish Council's budget meeting, held at 6pm at Halmer end stute, ST7 8AQ

PC [REDACTED]
PC [REDACTED]
PCSO [REDACTED]

In an email (dated 04/12/2025) to myself - [REDACTED], Complaints Handler for Staffs Police professional standards department confirmed the officers attendance and stated that they were there to engage with public following concerns of increasing tension online, relating to the budget and the precept rate that the residents of Audley Parish pay

Residents in Audley feel that the Parish Council abused their powers by summoning police to the meeting for the following reasons;

1. There is no evidence of any increased tensions or threats made to any member / employee of the Parish Council. Whoever claimed this was the case has falsified these threats. As police are required to assess a level of threat then how did police conclude this when there are no threats, or increasing tensions, online?
2. Although police occasionally, but rarely, attend Council meetings (only 2 examples of officers attending to talk in 18 months, as evident in Council minutes) to talk about crime stats and initiatives. They are never expected to attend the budget meeting. The police sat through the budget meeting (6-7pm) but left as the usual meeting started (7pm onwards). The usual meetings are where officers are invited to talk. As confirmed by [REDACTED] (Complaints Handler)
3. As already stated - on rare occasions police attend the usual Council meeting to talk. On this occasion (at a budget meeting where they have no input) a record number (3 officers) of police officers attended. 5 years of council minutes evidently show that there has not been more than 2 attend at any one time.

Residents, including myself, believe that the following information should be made public. Council elections are next May and the information would assist the electorate in choices we need to make to ensure our Council officials are honest, fair and not abusing powers, or making false claims, to waste police time. Residents are concerned that in a time when its extremely difficult to get a police officer to attend a real crime scene - that the Parish Council can summon 3 without any substantial reason to do so.

On behalf of a number of concerned residents could I politely request the following information relating to this matter:

1. Who asked the police to attend - and therefore wasted valuable resources. Our only wish is to know so the electorate can ensure our Council is made up of credible people who do not abuse powers and waste valuable police resources
2. How did the police involved assess a level of risk / threat that did not exist (if police have evidence to the contrary then it would be useful to see). There must be a procedure / risk matrix which would be used to calculate risk / threat and therefore level of response

Thankyou for taking the time to consider our request

SP received your request on 09/12/2025 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

SP's response to your enquiry is as follows:

SP holds/does not hold the requested information.

- 1. Who asked the police to attend - and therefore wasted valuable resources. Our only wish is to know so the electorate can ensure our Council is made up of credible people who do not abuse powers and waste valuable police resources – **Withheld.**
- 2. How did the police involved assess a level of risk / threat that did not exist (if police have evidence to the contrary then it would be useful to see). There must be a procedure / risk matrix which would be used to calculate risk / threat and therefore level of response – **No information held.**

Please note that the FOI Act 2000 only extends to requests for recorded information. It does not require public authorities to create information to answer questions generally; only if the information is already held in recorded form. The Act does not extend to requests for information about policies or their implementation, or the merits or demerits of any proposal or action - unless, of course, the answer to any such request is already held in recorded form.

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 request.

- Section 40(2) Personal Information

Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption which means that there is no need to quantify the harm that may arise from the disclosure; neither is it subject to a public interest test.

To release personal or third-party information held by SP, would breach the data protection principles; namely –

- Data is lawfully and fairly processed.
- Processed in line with an individual's rights.
- Data is secure.

Personal and third-party information cannot be released under the Freedom of Information Act.

Disclosure under Freedom of Information is a release of information to the world in general and not an individual applicant.

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.

If you have any concerns about the behaviour of police officers or police staff, please contact SP's Professional Standards Department by following the link below:

[Complain about the police | Staffordshire Police](#)

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 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



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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