

14 January 2026

FOI Ref 22251

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

Many thanks for the information sent on 9th December which has been very helpful. I would now like to request the following information relating to the forensic DNA examinations conducted during the cold-case review of the unidentified male found at Newton Road, Burton-upon-Trent, discovered on 26 March 1971. According to Forensic Archive Ltd., the relevant files (originating at Chorley FSS) were returned to Staffordshire Police in 2017 (on 01/02/17) under references:

- FSS 300528141
- FSS 400710462

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please disclose:

1. A list or index of all documents, reports, laboratory submissions, exhibits and materials contained within the above FSS files when they were returned to Staffordshire Police. (I am requesting metadata / inventory only, not the content of forensic reports.)
2. The dates on which DNA analysis or forensic examinations were carried out during the 2006–07 review.
3. Whether any DNA profiles were generated, and whether these profiles were uploaded to the National DNA Database (NDNAD).
4. Whether any matches, partial matches or familial search results were obtained at the time of analysis.
5. Whether any biological material or DNA extract from this case is still held by Staffordshire Police, Forensic Archive Ltd., or any other laboratory, and if so, in what form (e.g., extracted DNA, retained swabs, bones, etc).
6. Whether the FSS files have been digitised, and their current storage location.

If any part of the request is exempt, please disclose the non-exempt portions and state clearly which specific exemption applies to each withheld item.

SP received your request on 16/12/2025 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

SP's response to your enquiry is as follows:

SP can neither confirm nor deny whether information relevant to this request is held, as the duty in Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 does not apply by virtue of the following exemptions:

In accordance with Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, this letter represents a refusal notice for this request.

- Section 30(3) – Criminal Investigations SP are required to apply the public interest test.



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Public Interest Test

Factors favouring confirming or denying information is held – Section 30(3)

Confirming or denying information is held in respect of the information requested within the request would improve the public's confidence in the work of the police to apprehend offenders and reassure them that procedures to tackle crime were robust and effective.

Factors favouring not confirming or denying information is held – Section 30(3)

Confirmation or denial of the existence of the requested information would prejudice how investigations are conducted in the future. SP is charged with enforcing the law, preventing, and detecting crime and protecting the communities SP serve. Release of the requested information relating to an unsolved murder investigation, if held, could prejudice and undermine these types of investigations. The prevention and detection of such matters could therefore be hindered and therefore risk interference with evidence, which could have detrimental impact on future investigations. In addition, the right to a fair trial could be undermined.

Balance test

Information disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act is a release of information to the world in general and not an individual applicant. Having considered the public interest factors, SP are required to determine whether, on balance, the factors confirming or denying information is held outweigh those which are against confirmation or denial. It is SP's view that the factors opposing confirmation or denial outweigh those in favour.

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



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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