

15 January 2026

FOI Ref 22269

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

I'm writing to ask whether any of the following fields (or similar) are already available within your system, and if so, whether you could add them to the dataset you previously provided under FOI reference 21498 supplied on 30/07/2025.

- Invoice received date
- Invoice due date
- Invoice approved date
- Invoice payment terms
- Invoice query/dispute flag (e.g. Y/N)
- Reason for invoice query/dispute/delay

SP received your request on 19/12/2025 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.

- I'm writing to ask whether any of the following fields (or similar) are already available within your system, and if so, whether you could add them to the dataset you previously provided under FOI reference 21498 supplied on 30/07/2025.
 - Invoice received date
 - Invoice due date
 - Invoice approved date
 - Invoice payment terms
 - Invoice query/dispute flag (e.g. Y/N)
 - Reason for invoice query/dispute/delay
- Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 22269 Refinement of FOI 21498 Failed Supplier Payments Data'. Please see the below exemptions.**

Please be advised that the data has been provided from July 2023 onwards as this is when a new finance system was implemented and any data previous to that date cannot be retrieved on the system used to service this request. Please be advised that the late payment invoices and the late payment charges are on separate tabs in the dataset. Please also note that the negative values are credit notes we have received relating to invoices.

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. Additional payments may have been recorded during these timescales but are awaiting finalisation and input onto these systems and would not be present within this dataset.

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.

The following exemptions have 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 31 (1)(a)(b) Law Enforcement
- Section 38 (1)(a)(b) Health & Safety

These exemptions are qualified and prejudice-based and, as such, we are required to evidence the harm in disclosure and apply the public interest test.

- 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 Staffordshire Police, 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.

Harm

To provide the names of our dog kennel suppliers could undermine existing or future investigations, operations and police tactics. Disclosure of the specific name of the supplier of each facility would enable individuals intent on disrupting police activity to conduct detailed research on the available facilities and therefore identify the locations of such kennels.

Members of the criminal fraternity, armed with such information could then take steps to disrupt operational

policing; therefore, prejudicing the prevention and detection of crime, the administration of justice and placing both members of the public and police staff at a significantly increased risk of harm.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring disclosure - Section 31

To disclose this information would adhere to the basic principle of being open and transparent, it would also lead to a better public awareness of the workings of the police force how public funds are utilised.

Factors favouring non-disclosure - Section 31

Releasing such data would give those individuals with the intent to do so, the intelligence required to disrupt police activity. If a location was made public, or by dint of disclosure such locations could be identified, these locations could then be targeted by members of the criminal fraternity or other adversaries; seized dogs could be released into the public before any court procedures; therefore jeopardising our capacity to protect the public and bring offenders to justice. This would inevitably lead to an increased likelihood of criminal activity and unnecessarily endanger members of police staff and the public in general. Any disclosure of information which is likely to undermine the ability to serve the public in preventing and detecting crime can only be considered as being harmful.

Factors favouring disclosure - Section 38

In addition to the basic premise of being open and transparent, disclosure of the supplier name of any kennelling provision would allow for greater public awareness around the kennelling facilities employed by SP and inform public debate upon how public funds are being spent.

Factors favouring non-disclosure - Section 38

Our kennelling provision for seized dogs is kept confidential for security reasons; this is to ensure the safety and security of the staff and kennels, but also to ensure that seized dogs are cared for in a secure and safe environment. Disclosure of detailed information from which these locations could be determined would therefore be of detriment to these functions and unnecessarily place the wellbeing of staff, animals and the public at risk.

Balance Test

When considering whether disclosure is appropriate, we must weigh the strongest reason for disclosure against the strongest reasons for non-disclosure. In this case, whilst the factors favouring disclosure are important in that it would adhere to the basic principle of being open and transparent, we believe when weighed against the risk of disclosure undermining our ability to prevent and detect crime and hindering our ability to protect the public, then non-disclosure takes precedence.

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 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