

7 January 2026

FOI Ref 22301

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

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act regarding wildlife crimes reported within your force area.

Could you please provide the following data for the period 2000-2024:

1. The total number of wildlife crimes reported to your force.
2. The number of prosecutions resulting from those reports.
3. Details of the protected species groups involved in the cases that resulted in prosecution (e.g., birds, mammals, reptiles/amphibians, plants, etc.).

If possible, I would appreciate the data in a table or spreadsheet format. Please also advise if any part of this request would exceed cost limits or require refinement.

Clarification requested on 07/01/2026:

We are able to retrieve the following four offences in relation to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981:

- 099/20 - 96 - Offences relating to the introduction of new species - Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Sec 14 (1) & 18 (2)
 - 099/21 - 96 - Remove/disturb limestone on designated land - Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Sec 34
 - 099/48 - 96 - Carrying out or causing to permit to be carried out, any operation likely to damage part of an area of special scientific interest subject to notification by Nature Conservancy Council - Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 S.28P as added by Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000 Sch.9
 - 099/49 - 96 - Falsely pretending, with intent to deceive, to be a wildlife inspector. - Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 S.XB(4) as added by Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006 Sch 5 P.1.
- Please confirm if you would like us to provide figures for these four offences.

In addition, please be aware that under Management of Police Information guidelines, we may not hold information dating as far back as 2000. Please also be advised that we do not hold prosecution data.

Clarification received on 07/01/2026:

Yes that would be great, thank you!

SP received your request on 31/12/2025 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.

Could you please provide the following data for the period 2000-2024:

- 1. The total number of wildlife crimes reported to your force. – **Disclosed, 4 offences of Carrying out or causing to permit to be carried out, any operation likely to damage part of an area of special scientific interest subject to notification by Nature Conservancy Council. No other offences were recorded in the time period requested.**
- 2. The number of prosecutions resulting from those reports. – **No information held.**
- 3. Details of the protected species groups involved in the cases that resulted in prosecution (e.g., birds, mammals, reptiles/amphibians, plants, etc.). – **No information held.**

Although SP have searched our crime/occurrence systems for the entire time period requested, please be aware that under Management of Police Information retention guidelines, SP may not hold information dating as far back as 2000.

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 offences 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.

Advice and assistance

Section 16 of the Act places an obligation upon the Authority to provide advice and assistance, in order to comply with this obligation please see below.

Staffordshire Police do not hold conviction data. We would advise that you approach the Government HM Courts & Tribunals service website.

Please find below links to previously disclosed HMCTS data and details upon how to submit a further Freedom of Information request to the Government HM Courts and Tribunals Service for this information.

Make an FOI request - [how to make a request](#).

Check [our previous releases](#) to see if we've already answered your question - [our previous releases](#)

Make a new request by using the details below.

FOI requests



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

Disclosure Team
Postal Point 10.38, Floor 10
102 Petty France
London
SW1H 9AJ
United Kingdom

Email

data.access@justice.gov.uk

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.



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

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