

9 January 2026

FOI Ref 22333

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

From reading your response and recommendation, I am happy to redact QB and just request the information for Q's A,C,D as seen again below:

a) The total number of recorded offences of indecent images (still or moving) of children and prohibited images of children for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

c) For each offence for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 please break it down by the platform used to commit the offence where known using the following key word search: Snapchat, Facebook/Messenger, Instagram, WhatsApp, X/Twitter, Kik, TikTok, YouTube, Discord, Skype, Facetime, Roblox, Oculus, VR, Metaverse, Only Fans, Signal, iCloud, iMessage, Dropbox, Mega, Patreon, Reddit, Imgur, and other social media or messaging site, other cloud storage sites and online gaming.

d) What is the total number of perpetrators linked to the offences in question a?

SP received your request on 07/01/2026 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.**

- From reading your response and recommendation, I am happy to redact QB and just request the information for Q's A,C,D as seen again below:
- a) The total number of recorded offences of indecent images (still or moving) of children and prohibited images of children for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.
- c) For each offence for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 please break it down by the platform used to commit the offence where known using the following key word search: Snapchat, Facebook/Messenger, Instagram, WhatsApp, X/Twitter, Kik, TikTok, YouTube, Discord, Skype, Facetime, Roblox, Oculus, VR, Metaverse, Only Fans, Signal, iCloud, iMessage, Dropbox, Mega, Patreon, Reddit, Imgur, and other social media or messaging site, other cloud storage sites and online gaming.
- d) What is the total number of perpetrators linked to the offences in question a?  
- **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 22333 Refinement of FOI 22275 Indecent Images of Children Offences Data'.**

Please be advised that data has been provided for the offences of 'Take/make/distribute indecent photographs or pseudo- photographs, of children', 'Possession of an indecent or pseudo indecent photo of a child' and 'Possessing prohibited images of children' in the time period requested. A free text word

search has been carried out with regards to question C for each platform used, where no platform has been recorded this is marked as 'Not recorded' in the dataset. With regards to question D, data has been provided for the number of offenders per offence. Please be advised that not every offence will have an offender identified therefore there are less offenders per crimes.

Please note: This data for question C was obtained by completing a summary search for the terms "Snapchat", "Facebook/Messenger", "Instagram", "WhatsApp", "X/Twitter", "Kik", "Tik Tok", "Youtube", "Discord", "Skype", "Facetime", "Roblox", "Oculus", "VR", "Metaverse", "Only Fans", "Signal", "iCloud", "iMessage", "Dropbox", "Mega", "Patreon", "Reddit" and "Imgur". The accuracy and reliability of these searches cannot be guaranteed as only the MO / summary field of the report is searched. If this term is mentioned elsewhere (i.e. within the call log, crime report, statements etc) these will not be returned in the results. Additionally, if the term is misspelt within the MO / summary field, this will not be returned. To provide accurate results would require manually interrogating each crime within the specified timeframe to establish its relevance to your request.

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.

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](mailto: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