

28 January 2026

FOI Ref 22347

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

- 1) Of the victims of homicide killed between 1 January 2025 and 31 December 2025 how many were female? Where possible please also include the age and ethnicity of the victim.
- 2) Of the victims of homicide killed between 1 January 2024 and 31 December 2024 how many were female? Where possible please also include the age and ethnicity of the victim
- 3) In 2025, between 1 January and 31 December, how many female victims of homicide were known to the police via a domestic abuse marker or domestic abuse flag e.g. DARA. Where possible, please specify how the victim was known to police.
- 4) In 2024, between 1 January and 31 December how many female victims of homicide were known to the police via a domestic abuse marker or domestic abuse flag? e.g. DARA. Where possible, please specify how the victim was known to police.

If this exceeds the time limit, please could you prioritise the questions numerically .

SP received your request on 09/01/2026 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.

- 1) Of the victims of homicide killed between 1 January 2025 and 31 December 2025 how many were female? Where possible please also include the age and ethnicity of the victim. – **Disclosed, nil.**
- 2) Of the victims of homicide killed between 1 January 2024 and 31 December 2024 how many were female? Where possible please also include the age and ethnicity of the victim – **Partially disclosed, 2 female victims. Further information withheld under Section 38, please see below.**
- 3) In 2025, between 1 January and 31 December, how many female victims of homicide were known to the police via a domestic abuse marker or domestic abuse flag e.g. DARA. Where possible, please specify how the victim was known to police. – **Disclosed, nil.**
- 4) In 2024, between 1 January and 31 December how many female victims of homicide were known to the police via a domestic abuse marker or domestic abuse flag? e.g. DARA. Where possible, please specify how the victim was known to police. – **Partially disclosed, 1.**

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 particular request.

- Section 38 (1) (a) (b) – Health and Safety

Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to (a) endanger the physical or mental health of any individual, or (b) endanger the safety of any individual. This exemption is qualified and prejudice-based and, as such, we are required to evidence the harm in disclosure and apply the public interest test.

Harm

To provide further information relating to the victims of homicide would obviously place both sensitive and potentially distressing information into the public domain. The impact upon the mental health and wellbeing of close family and friends cannot be understated or ignored. This may resurface the anguish and pain experienced by any individuals with a close link to the victims identified and therefore have unknown ramifications to the mental health and wellbeing of close friends and loved ones.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring disclosure under Section 38(1)(a)(b)

In addition to the basic premise of being open and transparent, disclosure of the information would allow for greater public awareness around how Staffordshire Police handle sensitive matters.

Factors favouring non-disclosure under Section 38(1)(a)(b)

When disclosing information into the public domain we must be mindful of the potential impact this may have. Clearly information relating to the death of any individual, would invite speculation upon the cause of death of any individuals so identified. The impact such speculation may have upon close friends and family cannot be ignored. Placing such information into an open public forum would therefore have unforeseen ramifications upon the mental health and wellbeing of those close to the deceased and place them at an increased risk of harm.

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 impacting on our ability to protect the mental health and wellbeing of family and friends of the deceased, then non-disclosure takes precedence.

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

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