

23 January 2026

FOI Ref 22372

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

Please treat the following as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act.

For each calendar year from 2019 to 2025, please provide the following information.
If information is not held by calendar year, please supply figures by financial year instead.

1. Dogs seized by police

For the avoidance of doubt, please exclude stray dogs handled on behalf of local authorities. Please include only dogs seized by the police in connection with criminal investigations, public-safety incidents, or powers under the Dangerous Dogs Act.

1a. The number of dogs seized by the force.

1b. If recorded in an extractable format, the number of dogs seized, broken down by the reason for seizure (e.g., Dangerous Dogs Act, owner arrested, welfare grounds, other policing powers).
If this is not recorded in a structured form, please instead state so".

1c. The number of dogs seized, split by suspected breed 1d. The number of seized dogs that were destroyed.

1e. . If recorded in an extractable format, the number of seized dogs that were destroyed split by suspected breed.

2. Kennelling

2a. The total annual expenditure by the force on kennelling dogs seized by police (as defined above) for each year.

If kennelling costs are not separately coded or cannot be isolated from wider animal-handling or contract costs, please state this.

Additional clarifications

- If any part of the request exceeds the cost limit, please process the remainder and specify which elements cannot be completed.
- If any definitions used by the force differ from those above, please provide clarification.

SP received your request on 13/01/2026 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

SP's response to your enquiry is as follows:

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

The following exemption has been applied:

- Section 12(1) where the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit.

Section 12(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the prescribed limit'.

The above information has been withheld for the following reasons:

There is no method by which SP can readily retrieve information from our systems to answer this request. For the time period requested, there have been in excess of 280 dogs seized. In order to determine the breeds of the dogs seized, the record for each offence would require a manual review, if such information is held. Further review would need to be conducted in order to determine the breeds of dogs that were euthanised. To extract this data would therefore require a very labour-intensive manual trawl through each record.

From dip sampling, it has been estimated that it would take approximately 10-20 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to between 46 and 93 hours. To achieve this task would therefore exceed the 18-hour time and cost threshold of the Freedom of Information Act by a considerable margin.

Advice and assistance

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

If your request was refined, SP would be able to provide the following:

1. The number of dogs seized by the force between February 2024 and January 2026.
2. The number of suspected prohibited dogs seized between February 2024 and January 2026.
3. The number of dogs seized between February 2024 and January 2026 that were euthanised.
4. The total annual expenditure by the force on kennelling dogs seized by police (as defined above) for each financial year from 2018/19 – 2025/26 (up to December 2025).

Please note that data relating to seized dogs is not held prior to February 2024.

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:



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

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 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