



15 January 2026

FOI Ref 22379

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

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I request the following recorded information held by your force in relation to police incidents at asylum accommodation sites.

This request is strictly limited to the 2025 calendar year and to existing, aggregated data only, in order to remain within the Section 12 cost limit.

Q1 - Incidents involving residents of asylum accommodation (excluding protests) For the period 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025, please provide:

The total number of recorded police incidents at asylum accommodation sites Excluding incidents primarily attributed to protests, demonstrations, or public-order events involving non-residents

This should be based only on existing markers, such as:

- incident type classifications
- subject/offender descriptors
- location-based coding
- flags already used internally
- No manual review of narratives is requested.

Q2 - Incident breakdown (aggregate only) Where held in an existing reportable format, please provide an aggregate breakdown of the incidents above by high-level category, for example:

- Violence against the person
- Sexual offences
- Criminal damage
- Public order (non-protest related)
- Weapons offences
- Drug offences
- Safeguarding / welfare
- Other notifiable offences

Q3 - Arrests and outcomes (aggregate)

For the same 2025 period and same non-protest scope, please provide:

- Total number of arrests arising from these incidents
- Total number of cases submitted to the CPS

Aggregate totals only.

Q4 - Recording and filtering clarification (existence only)

Please confirm:

a) Whether your force records or flags whether an incident at asylum accommodation is:



- resident-related; or
- protest/demonstration-related

b) Whether such a distinction is:

- held in a structured field
- searchable without manual review and
- available for reporting purposes.

If no such distinction exists, please confirm this explicitly.

#### Clarifications

I am not requesting:

- individual case details
- names or personal data
- narrative logs
- manual file review
- protest-related incidents

This request concerns migrant/resident-related incidents only, using data already held.

SP received your request on 14/01/2026 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. SP do not have any markers or flags available in order to identify that an incident is in relation to asylum seekers or asylum seeker accommodation. Therefore, each incident recorded would need to be manually reviewed in order to determine whether it involved an asylum seeker or asylum seeker accommodation. For the time period requested, there have been in excess of 273,000 incidents recorded. 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 3 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to over 13,650 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.

Unfortunately, SP cannot suggest a way in which your request could be simplified or pared down to bring it within the confines of the time and cost threshold. Please be advised that SP do not have a specific marker or flag for asylum seekers or asylum seeker accommodation, neither do SP make a distinction between incidents at asylum seeker accommodation depending on whether they are resident or protest related, other than what would be recorded within the free text fields of an incident or occurrence log.

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 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.



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