

29 January 2026

FOI Ref 22440

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

For the purposes of clarity, "livestock worrying" should be interpreted as incidents involving dogs chasing, attacking, injuring, or killing livestock, as recorded by your force.

Question 1

From 1 January 2010 to the present date, please provide the number of recorded incidents or reports of livestock worrying within your force area.

Question 2

From 1 January 2010 to the present date, please provide the number of recorded incidents in which a dog was shot, euthanised, or otherwise dispatched by police officers at the scene, or by another, where this was recorded as being in connection with:

livestock worrying, and/or
dogs being dangerously out of control.

Question 3

From 1 January 2010 to the present date, please provide the number of recorded incidents or reports in which the use of an electronic training device (including electronic collars) on a dog, was reported to the police as being used in an abusive, inappropriate, or welfare-related context, as recorded by your force.

If any part of this request exceeds the appropriate cost limit under the Freedom of Information Act, please advise which elements may be refined or narrowed in order for the request to be fulfilled.

SP received your request on 26/01/2026 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 period requested, there have been more than 10,000 wildlife or domestic animal related incidents

recorded. To determine whether the incident was related to livestock worrying and the results of such incident, or electronic training devices being used to harm dogs, the record for each incident would require a manual review. 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 10-20 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to between 1,666 and 3,333 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 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 Force's response to the original FOI request.

3. Review Procedure



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

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