

2 July 2026

FOI Ref 22974

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

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide the following information regarding your force's response to the criminal exploitation of girls and young women.

1. Does your force have a specific, dedicated project, initiative or strategy for supporting female victims (including girls under 18 and young women aged 18–24) of criminal exploitation or county lines? (Yes/No)
2. If the answer to Question 1 is Yes, please state the official name of this project/initiative/strategy and the year it was launched

SP received your request on 08/06/2026 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. Does your force have a specific, dedicated project, initiative or strategy for supporting female victims (including girls under 18 and young women aged 18–24) of criminal exploitation or county lines? (Yes/No) – **Disclosed, yes.**
- 2. If the answer to Question 1 is Yes, please state the official name of this project/initiative/strategy and the year it was launched – **Disclosed, Operation Vigilant was launched in 2026 and Operation Makesafe was launched in 2023.**

Please note that this data has been provided to the best of our ability, subject to the limitation of current recording protocols and systems/software.

Please be advised that all Freedom of Information request responses are published on the SP website although personal details are not included.

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 this particular request.

- Section 23(5) – Information supplied by, or relating to, bodies dealing with security matters

Section 23 is an absolute class-based exemption and as such does not require the application of a Public Interest Test.



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

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

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, taking into account 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