



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

Our Ref: FOI: 23015
Your Ref: FOI: 23007
Date: 07 July 2026

Internal Review

Re: Request for internal review of response to application for information under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, original request first notified to Staffordshire Police on 15th June 2026.

SP refers to the above request which was expressed in the following terms:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request details on the disposal process for lithium-ion batteries removed from e-scooters that have been seized or crushed by the police. Specifically, I would like to know:

- (1) what steps are taken to dispose of the batteries,
- (2) which organization or department is responsible for their handling, and
- (3) whether there is any associated cost for this process, and who bears it.

Please provide any records, policies, or procedures related to this disposal.

Further to the above, SP also note the following comments made within your request for an Internal Review.

I am writing to request an internal review of the response provided to Freedom of Information request 23007.

My request sought information relating to the disposal of lithium-ion batteries contained within e-scooters seized and subsequently disposed of by Staffordshire Police.

The response states that Staffordshire Police "does not hold the requested information."

I would ask that this decision be reviewed on the following grounds:

1. Staffordshire Police routinely seizes e-scooters and e-bikes as part of its enforcement activities. These items contain lithium-ion batteries which are regulated waste and require appropriate handling and disposal.
2. If Staffordshire Police does not itself remove, store, recycle, destroy, or dispose of these batteries, there must be a process by which seized e-scooters are transferred to another organisation, contractor, or disposal service.
3. It is therefore reasonable to expect that Staffordshire Police holds information regarding the disposal pathway for seized e-scooters, including details of any third-party contractor responsible for their destruction, recycling, or disposal.
4. If the requested information is held by another department within Staffordshire Police, or by a contractor acting on behalf of Staffordshire Police, I would ask that this be considered during the review. In particular, I would be grateful if the review could clarify:
 - What happens to seized e-scooters after they leave police possession.
 - Whether a third-party contractor is responsible for disposal.
 - Whether Staffordshire Police holds any contracts, policies, procedures, guidance, or records relating to the disposal of seized e-scooters and e-bikes.

- Whether any information is held concerning the handling, recycling, recovery, or disposal of lithium-ion batteries contained within seized e-scooters and e-bikes.

I believe the response may have interpreted my request too narrowly and that further searches may identify information relevant to the disposal process.

SP Response

A review has been completed, and SP wishes to change their response from 'no information held' to 'information held'. The questions from your first request have been aggregated together with the additional questions you added when asking for an Internal which SP reply to as follows:

(1) what steps are taken to dispose of the batteries

The attached policy - 'FOI 23015 - IR of 23007 Lithium-Ion Battery Disposal - Policy' explains the full process – the batteries are removed from the e-bikes/ e-scooters at our disposal agents premises and the batteries are securely stored in a locked proprietary transport container provided to them by their waste carrier, which are collected on a regular basis and transported in compliance with the Carriage of Dangerous Goods and Use of Transportable Pressure Equipment Regulations for safe destruction.

(2) which organization or department is responsible for their handling, and

The SP disposal agent is John Pye and sons, who are responsible for the handling and disposal through their waste carrier in accordance with Carriage of Dangerous Goods and Use of Transportable Pressure Equipment Regulations.

(3) whether there is any associated cost for this process, and who bears it.

No costs for this process are incurred by SP; this is included in the disposal contract in that John Pye will arrange appropriate storage and disposal of these items.

(4) Please provide any records, policies, or procedures related to this disposal.

See attached policy.

(4) What happens to seized e-scooters after they leave police possession.

They are collected by John Pye disposal agents and disposed of by crushing once the batteries have been removed from them as described.

(5) Whether a third-party contractor is responsible for disposal.

Yes, John Pye and Sons.

(6) Whether Staffordshire Police holds any contracts, policies, procedures, guidance, or records relating to the disposal of seized e-scooters and e-bikes.

Yes, SP have a disposal contract with John Pye and Sons, who are responsible for the safe collection, storage and disposal of these items.

(7) Whether any information is held concerning the handling, recycling, recovery, or disposal of lithium-ion batteries contained within seized e-scooters and e-bikes.

See attached policy.

Please note that some redactions have been applied to the attached document, this is because in accordance with Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, SP are citing the following exemption:

- **Section 40(2) Personal Information**

Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption which means that there is no need to quantify the harm that may arise from the disclosure; neither is it subject to a public interest test.

To release personal or third-party information held by SP, would breach the data protection principles; namely –

- Data is lawfully and fairly processed.
- Processed in line with an individual's rights.
- Data is secure.

Personal and third-party information cannot be released under the Freedom of Information Act.

Disclosure under Freedom of Information is a release of information to the world in general and not an individual applicant.

Please be advised that all FOI requests and response letters are published on the Staffordshire Police website although personal details are not included.

If you are not content with the outcome of the review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner to investigate. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

<https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/foi-and-eir-complaints/foi-and-eir-complaints/>

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