

17 July 2026

FOI Ref 23029

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

I am writing to make a formal request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding traffic and parking enforcement carried out by Staffordshire Police.

Specifically, I am seeking information regarding enforcement actions taken against vehicles blocking the footpath or pavement under the offence of unnecessary obstruction of the highway (Section 137 of the Highways Act 1980).

Please provide the following information:

1. Enforcement Statistics:
 - (i) The total number of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) issued and (ii) the total number of vehicle removals carried out by Staffordshire Police for the offence of unnecessary obstruction of the highway (specifically involving vehicles blocking footpaths/pavements) for the calendar years 2023, 2024, 2025, and the available months of 2026. If possible, please provide a breakdown of these figures specifically for the Stafford area.
2. Policy and Methodology: Copies of, or extracts from, any current operational policies, internal guidelines, or methodology documents utilized by Staffordshire Police officers when identifying, assessing, and enforcing pavement parking and footpath obstructions.
3. Strategic Planning: Details of any strategic planning, targeted campaigns, or joint initiatives (for instance, with local councils) currently in place or planned to address the rising frequency of drivers blocking footpaths, including how resources are allocated to tackle this issue.

If the request for statistical data exceeds the cost limits set out under Section 12 of the FOI Act, please prioritize providing the policy, methodology, and planning documents requested in points 2 and 3, alongside any advice you can offer on how to refine the data request.

SP received your request on 22/06/2026 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

SP's response to your enquiry is as follows:

SP holds/does not hold the requested information.

I am writing to make a formal request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding traffic and parking enforcement carried out by Staffordshire Police.

Specifically, I am seeking information regarding enforcement actions taken against vehicles blocking the footpath or pavement under the offence of unnecessary obstruction of the highway (Section 137 of the Highways Act 1980).

Please provide the following information:

Enforcement

Statistics:

(i) The total number of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) issued and
- Disclosed: For 2023 – 48; 2024 – 81; 2025 – 111.

(ii) the total number of vehicle removals carried out by Staffordshire Police for the offence of unnecessary obstruction of the highway (specifically involving vehicles blocking footpaths/pavements) for the calendar years 2023, 2024, 2025, and the available months of 2026. If possible, please provide a breakdown of these figures specifically for the Stafford area.
- No information held.

1. Policy and Methodology: Copies of, or extracts from, any current operational policies, internal guidelines, or methodology documents utilized by Staffordshire Police officers when identifying, assessing, and enforcing pavement parking and footpath obstructions.
- No information held.
2. Strategic Planning: Details of any strategic planning, targeted campaigns, or joint initiatives (for instance, with local councils) currently in place or planned to address the rising frequency of drivers blocking footpaths, including how resources are allocated to tackle this issue.
- Disclosed: News release on parking on pavements in Stafford: [Guide dog Pebble helps officers deliver safe parking message | Staffordshire Police](#)

Please note that these figures have been provided to the best of the ability of SP, subject to the limitation of current recording protocols and systems and software. Additional offences may have been recorded during these timescales but are awaiting finalisation and input onto these systems and would not be present within this dataset.

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that data is extracted from multiple sources, developed for specific policing purposes, for which data extraction methods have not been specifically designed to directly correlate with the terminology of this request. Therefore, the data presented is subject to the inaccuracies and idiosyncrasies inherent in any large-scale recording system.

Consequently, care should be taken in the interpretation and presentation of this data, to not misrepresent the whole or any part of the data disclosed.

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.

Regarding question (i) SP is unable to provide figures for 2026 at this time due to a shortage of trained staff for the system used to retrieve this data type. This will be resolved in September, 2026 when additional staff will receive the relevant training.

In relation to question 1 (Policy and Methodology), although not forming an operational policy etc as detailed in this question, please find the following link to the website of SP which may be useful in this context: [Parking issues and abandoned vehicles | Staffordshire Police](#)

Please be advised that all Freedom of Information request responses are published on the Staffordshire Police 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 SP response to the original FOI request.



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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 twenty working days. In more complex cases the review may take up to forty 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