

8 July 2026

FOI Ref 23040

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

Thank you for your response.

We do not accept that this request is vexatious within the meaning of section 14 FOIA.

The ICO's guidance states that, when considering whether a request is vexatious, authorities should assess the value or serious purpose of the request and weigh this against any burden arising from compliance. The information sought relates to the Force's procedures for responding to domestic abuse and stalking and harassment, which are matters of significant public interest. The request has clear value in promoting transparency and understanding of police policies and practices.

We also note that other police forces have disclosed equivalent procedures in response to our request.

To further reduce any burden on the Force, we have narrowed the scope of our request and now seek only the following documents:

Domestic Abuse Procedure; and
Stalking and Harassment Procedure.

Given the limited scope of the revised request and the public value of the information sought, we do not consider that the threshold for engaging section 14 has been met. We would therefore be grateful if the Force could reconsider its position and process the request on this basis.

SP received your request on 23/06/2026 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.

Thank you for your response.

We do not accept that this request is vexatious within the meaning of section 14 FOIA.

The ICO's guidance states that, when considering whether a request is vexatious, authorities should assess the value or serious purpose of the request and weigh this against any burden arising from compliance. The information sought relates to the Force's procedures for responding to domestic abuse and stalking and harassment, which are matters of significant public interest. The request has clear value in promoting transparency and understanding of police policies and practices.

We also note that other police forces have disclosed equivalent procedures in response to our request.



- To further reduce any burden on the Force, we have narrowed the scope of our request and now seek only the following documents: - **Partially disclosed, please see below:**
- Domestic Abuse Procedure; and -- **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 23040 Domestic Abuse Procedure'.**
- Stalking and Harassment Procedure. - **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 23040 Stalking and Harassment Procedure'.**

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 request.

- 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 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/software.

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.

As a consequence, care should be taken in the interpretation and presentation of this data, so as to not misrepresent the whole or any part of the data disclosed.

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 SP 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 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