



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

Our Ref: FOI 23045
Your Ref: FOI 23005
Date: 08 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 12/06/2026.

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

I am requesting access to the formal case closure reports, internal review summaries, or policy decision logs held by the Major Crime Review Team regarding the 2020 decision to terminate the reopened investigation into the 2002 murder of Kevin Nunes.

Context:

In 2020, it was publicly disclosed that the reopened investigation into the homicide of Kevin Nunes had concluded without charges. The Crown Prosecution Service formally declined to bring an indictment, citing that historic investigative failings and witness-handling issues from the original 2002 investigation meant that any contemporary prosecution would constitute an "abuse of the legal process."

Specific Information Requested:

The formal internal case closure report, briefing note, or decision log generated by Staffordshire Police in 2019 or 2020 detailing the final administrative rationale for halting the active murder investigation.

Records or internal correspondence held within this closure file detailing the specific historic police handling failures from the original investigation that met the legal threshold for an "Abuse of Process," thereby preventing a criminal indictment from being brought against the identified chief suspect.

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

I am writing to formally request an independent Internal Review of Staffordshire Police's decision, dated 23 June 2026, to withhold the information requested under reference 23005.

The force has applied a blanket exemption under Section 30(1)(a)(b) (Criminal Investigations). I am dissatisfied with this outcome as I believe the Public Interest Balance Test has been applied incorrectly and fails to reflect the unique legal status of this historic case.

Grounds for Review:

1. Erroneous Application of Prejudice to "Future Investigations"

The refusal notice states that disclosure could “risk interference with evidence, which could have detrimental impact on future investigations... and the right to a fair trial.” This rationale is factually flawed.

In 2020, the Crown Prosecution Service formally declined to bring any indictments and closed the reopened Nunes investigation permanently, explicitly stating that historic police mishandling meant any contemporary prosecution would constitute an unappealable Abuse of Process. Because an Abuse of Process ruling creates a permanent, structural bar to prosecution, there are no active, viable, or planned "future investigations" or "trials" that could be prejudiced by this disclosure.

2. High-Level Historical Misconduct and the Public Interest The systemic handling failures associated with the original 2002 Kevin Nunes investigation, including the Sensitive Policing Unit's contamination of the primary witness, have already been heavily detailed in the public domain via the Court of Appeal judgment *R v Adam Joof & Ors* [2012] EWCA Crim 1475 and the unsealing of the 2007 Costello Report findings.

The public interest heavily favours understanding how Staffordshire Police administratively reconciled these historic, judicially criticized failings to bring the case to its definitive 2020 closure.

Revealing the administrative rationale for terminating a multi-million-pound, publicly funded historic murder matrix does not hinder law enforcement; it fulfills the core purpose of the FOIA regarding institutional accountability.

Conclusion:

I accept that operational tactical methodologies can be redacted.

However, I request that the independent supervisor re-evaluate the balance test and release a redacted copy of the 2019/2020 case closure report and final administrative decision logs.

SP Response

An Internal Review has been completed, and SP now wish to provide a revised response; please disregard the original response (23005) where a s30 (Criminal Investigations) exemption was cited.

The revised response is as follows:

The formal internal case closure report, briefing note, or decision log generated by Staffordshire Police in 2019 or 2020 detailing the final administrative rationale for halting the active murder investigation.

No information is held; the review is ongoing and the case is not closed.

Records or internal correspondence held within this closure file detailing the specific historic police handling failures from the original investigation that met the legal threshold for an "Abuse of Process," thereby preventing a criminal indictment from being brought against the identified chief suspect.

No information is held as there is no such file,

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/>

Information Access Team Management
IAT@staffordshire.police.uk