

7 July 2026

FOI Ref 23062

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

Please provide data relating to the new and updated spiking offence inserted into the Offences Against the Person Act 1861, which commenced on 29 April 2026.

For the period 29 April 2026 to the date this request is processed, please provide:

1. The number of offences recorded by your force under this new spiking offence.
2. A breakdown of those offences by current investigation outcome or police action, including where available:
 - Arrest made;
 - Suspect charged or summonsed;
 - Out-of-court disposal;
 - No further action;
 - Investigation ongoing;
 - Any other outcome category used by your force.
3. Gender and age of victims and suspects (if the force holds that information)
4. The date on which the data was extracted.

If your force cannot search specifically for this new offence, please explain how such offences are recorded and whether they are grouped under another offence code or category.

Please provide the information in Excel or CSV format.

Clarification received on 02/07/2026:

Should you not be able to provide the data requested above, please could you share the number of offences with a 'spiking' qualifier added to the crime record for the period of April 29th 2026 to present.

Please also provide:

1. Any recorded outcomes to the crimes that are held on your system, with any detail on police action if available. E.g. status of the crime.
2. The gender and age of the victims, if available.
3. The gender and age of the suspects, if available.
4. The date on which the data was extracted.

If your force cannot identify this new offence, please explain how officers record this crime now the changes are in place, so I can evaluate what specific category/crime code I am enquiring about.

SP received your request on 30/06/2026 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.

- Should you not be able to provide the data requested above, please could you share the number of offences with a 'spiking' qualifier added to the crime record for the period of April 29th 2026 to present. – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 23062 Spiking Offences Data.xlsx'.**

Please also provide:

- Any recorded outcomes to the crimes that are held on your system, with any detail on police action if available. E.g. status of the crime. – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 23062 Spiking Offences Data.xlsx'.**
- The gender and age of the victims, if available. – **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 23062 Spiking Offences Data.xlsx'.**
- The gender and age of the suspects, if available. – **Withheld.**
- The date on which the data was extracted. – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 23062 Spiking Offences Data.xlsx'.**
- If your force cannot identify this new offence, please explain how officers record this crime now the changes are in place, so I can evaluate what specific category/crime code I am enquiring about. – **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 23062 Spiking Offences Data.xlsx'.**

Please note that there are 10 offences that are still being investigated so with regard to these cases we are citing Section 30(1)(a)(b) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Investigations conducted by Public Authorities.

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 parts of this particular request.

- Section 30(1)(a)(b) – Criminal Investigations
- Section 30 is qualified and class based and, as such, we are required to apply the public interest test.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring disclosure under Section 30(1)(a)(b)

Disclosure of the information would improve the public's knowledge and understanding of the investigatory process and, as all police investigations are publicly funded, would show how public funds are being spent.

Factors favouring non-disclosure under Section 30(1)(a)(b)

Disclosure of the requested information would prejudice how investigations are carried out in the future. SP is charged with enforcing the law, preventing and detecting crime and protecting the communities SP serves. Any release of information relating to ongoing investigations could prejudice and undermine those investigations. The prevention and detection of such matters could therefore be hindered and therefore risk interference with evidence, which could have detrimental impact on future investigations. In addition, the right to a fair trial could be undermined.

Balance test

Disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act is a release of information to the world in general and not an individual applicant. Having considered the public interest factors SP are required to determine whether on balance the factors favouring disclosure outweigh those which are against disclosure. It is SP's view that the factors favouring disclosure do not outweigh those which favour non-disclosure.

Please be advised that 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 Force's 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 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