

9 July 2026

FOI Ref 23069

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

I am sending this request under the Freedom of Information Act to ask for the following information.

Time periods requested:

- 1 January–31 December 2020
- 1 January–31 December 2021
- 1 January–31 December 2022
- 1 January–31 December 2023
- 1 January–31 December 2024
- 1 January–31 December 2025
- 1 January–30 June 2026

Dealing with complaints about racism.

As part of this FOI request, I need some context.

Forces often record racism complaints under different categories. Some use “hate crime”. Some use “racially aggravated incident”. Some use “discrimination complaint”.

Some use “conduct matter”.

Please explain how your force identifies and records racism complaints in your systems, including any keywords, categories or flags used.

Now to the substantive part of my request. When considering it, please provide the total number of recorded crimes and non-crime hate incidents (NCHIs) which feature a ‘racial’ hate marker or flag.

1. Complaint volumes For each of the above calendar years, please provide:

- The total number of complaints to your force alleging racism by members of the public about the public.

2. Complainant demographics

For each complaint recorded in each year, please provide the following fields (anonymised):

2a. Ethnicity of the complainant (as recorded) e.g., White, Black, Asian or whichever ethnic groups you record your data.

2b. Age of the complainant (at time of complaint). I’m happy if you put these into groups to avoid problems with GDPR e.g., < 10; 10-17; 18-30; 31-50; 51-70; 71-90; > 90.



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2c. Gender of the complainant (as recorded).

3. Suspect demographics

For each complaint recorded in each year, please provide:

3a. Ethnicity of the suspect (as recorded – see Q2).

3b. Age of the suspect (at time of incident or complaint – see Q2).

3c. Gender of the suspect (as recorded).

4. Outcomes

For each complaint recorded in each year, please provide:

4a. Outcome of the complaint, including (but not limited to):

- Arrest• Charge
- Community resolution
- No Further Action (NFA)
- Withdrawn
- Any other outcome category used by your force

5. Data format

Please make sure that you provide the data in the same format for each separate year.

- 1 January–31 December 2020
- 1 January–31 December 2021
- 1 January–31 December 2022
- 1 January–31 December 2023
- 1 January–31 December 2024
- 1 January–31 December 2025
- 1 January–30 June 2026

5a. Please provide the data in an excel spreadsheet.

5b. If it is easier for you, simply give me the raw data so I can create my own pivot tables or filter the data.

6. Please provide any documents you have which have policies officers must follow when dealing with racial incidents.

SP received your request on 01/07/2026 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.

I am sending this request under the Freedom of Information Act to ask for the following information.

Time periods requested:

- 1 January–31 December 2020



- 1 January–31 December 2021
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Dealing with complaints about racism.

As part of this FOI request, I need some context.

Forces often record racism complaints under different categories. Some use “hate crime”. Some use “racially aggravated incident”. Some use “discrimination complaint”.

Some use “conduct matter”.

Please explain how your force identifies and records racism complaints in your systems, including any keywords, categories or flags used.

- **Disclosed: SP identifies and records ‘Racist Hate Crime’ in accordance with the guidance document, ‘Racist Hate Crime Procedure (please see below)’. SP specifically identifies recorded racist hate crime from its crime recording system by making a search of the system using a ‘Hate Crime’ flag where the stats classification matches %racial%.**

Now to the substantive part of my request. When considering it, please provide the total number of recorded crimes and non-crime hate incidents (NCHIs) which feature a ‘racial’ hate marker or flag.

1. Complaint volumes For each of the above calendar years, please provide:

- The total number of complaints to your force alleging racism by members of the public about the public.
- **Disclosed: Please see the attached spreadsheet entitled, ‘FOI 23069 Racism Complaints Data.xlsx’.**

2. Complainant demographics

For each complaint recorded in each year, please provide the following fields (anonymised):

2a. Ethnicity of the complainant (as recorded) e.g., White, Black, Asian or whichever ethnic groups you record your data.

2b. Age of the complainant (at time of complaint). I’m happy if you put these into groups to avoid problems with GDPR e.g., < 10; 10-17; 18-30; 31-50; 51-70; 71-90; >90.

2c. Gender of the complainant (as recorded).

- **Disclosed: Please see the attached spreadsheet entitled, ‘FOI 23069 Racism Complaints Data.xlsx’.**

3. Suspect demographics

For each complaint recorded in each year, please provide:

3a. Ethnicity of the suspect (as recorded – see Q2).



3b. Age of the suspect (at time of incident or complaint – see Q2).

3c. Gender of the suspect (as recorded).

- **Disclosed: Please see the attached spreadsheet entitled, 'FOI 23069 Racism Complaints Data.xlsx'.**

4. Outcomes

For each complaint recorded in each year, please provide:

4a. Outcome of the complaint, including (but not limited to):

- Arrest• Charge
- Community resolution
- No Further Action (NFA)
- Withdrawn
- Any other outcome category used by your force

- **Disclosed: Please see the attached spreadsheet entitled, 'FOI 23069 Racism Complaints Data.xlsx'.**

5. Data format

Please make sure that you provide the data in the same format for each separate year.

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5a. Please provide the data in an excel spreadsheet.

5b. If it is easier for you, simply give me the raw data so I can create my own pivot tables or filter the data.

6. Please provide any documents you have which have policies officers must follow when dealing with racial incidents.

- **Disclosed: Please see separately disclosed PDF entitled, 'Racist Hate Crime Procedure.pdf'.**

It should be noted that a suspect is referred to as an offender once it has been decided that there is sufficient evidence to charge the suspect. Thus, in providing the data to answer question 3 (suspect demographics), SP has provided data in relation to both the suspect and offender.

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 incidents and 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.

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.



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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