

29 July 2026

FOI Ref 23083

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

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to please request information relating to police deployments to football stadiums within your area of responsibility.

Please provide the following information for the period 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2025 (broken down by calendar year):

- The total number of occasions on which officers were called to attend to an incident at the bet365 Stadium

Where available, please provide a breakdown of incidents by the following:

- The number of incidents attended each month, split by calendar year (e.g. Jan - Dec 2023, Jan - Dec 2024 and Jan - Dec 2025)
- The reason for attendance (e.g. ignoring smoking/vaping rules, assault, criminal damage, pitch invasion, etc)

If your records distinguish between smoking-related and vaping-related offences, please provide this breakdown separately, where possible.

I would appreciate it if you could provide this information in Excel format.

If the information is already publicly available, please provide a link or reference to where it can be accessed.

If any part of this request requires clarification or if any aspect cannot be provided, please let me know, and I will be happy to assist.

Thank you for your time and assistance.

Clarification received from applicant 20/07/2026

Thank you for your response.

I can confirm that I am happy for the data to only include officers who attend Bet 365 for planned operations during the Football season.

In relation to question 3, please include any of the following:

Smoking and vaping - Smoking in designated smoke-free areas, vaping where prohibited, refusing to stop smoking/vaping when instructed by stewards, breaching ground regulations relating to smoking/vaping

Assault and violence - Common assault, Actual Bodily Harm (ABH), Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH), assault on a steward, assault on a police officer, fighting, violent disorder, affray

Criminal damage - Damage to seats, toilets or stadium facilities, graffiti, damage to barriers or fencing, damage to vehicles in stadium car parks

Pitch invasion - Entering the playing area without permission, attempting to enter the pitch, remaining on the pitch after being instructed to leave

Public order offences - Drunk and disorderly behaviour, threatening or abusive behaviour, public order offences under the Public Order Act, causing harassment, alarm or distress

Missile throwing - Throwing bottles, coins, cups, pyrotechnics or other objects onto the pitch or into crowds

Pyrotechnics - Possession or use of flares, smoke bombs, fireworks or other pyrotechnic devices

Alcohol-related offences - Being drunk and disorderly, attempting to bring alcohol into prohibited areas, drinking in sight of the pitch where prohibited, serving alcohol to intoxicated persons

Drug offences - Possession of controlled drugs, possession with intent to supply, use of illegal drugs

Hate crime/discriminatory behaviour - Racist chanting, homophobic chanting, discriminatory abuse, religiously aggravated offences, online abuse linked to a match

Ticket offences - Ticket touting, using counterfeit tickets, unauthorised resale, entering with another person's ticket, fraud

Theft - Pickpocketing, theft from spectators, shoplifting from stadium stores

Weapons offences - Possession of offensive weapons, knives, prohibited items

Trespassing - Entering restricted areas, unauthorised access to changing rooms, tunnels or media areas

Breach of banning order - Attending a match while subject to a Football Banning Order

Anti-social behaviour - Disorderly conduct, persistent foul or abusive language, refusing to follow steward instructions, spitting

SP received your request on 06/07/2026 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

SP's response to your enquiry is as follows:

In accordance with Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, this letter represents a refusal notice for this request.

The following exemption has been applied:

- Section 12(1) where the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit.

Section 12(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the prescribed limit'.

The above information has been withheld for the following reasons:

There is no method by which SP can readily retrieve information from local police systems to answer this request. For the period requested, there have been in excess of 375 incidents. To ascertain the reason for attendance at the Bet365 Stadium, the record for each incident would require a manual review. To extract this data would therefore require a very labour-intensive manual trawl through each record.

From dip sampling, it has been estimated that it would take approximately 5 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to over 31 hours. To achieve this task would therefore exceed the 18-hour time and cost threshold of the Freedom of Information Act by a considerable margin.

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.

Unfortunately, SP cannot suggest a way in which your request could be simplified or pared down to bring it within the confines of the time and cost threshold.

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



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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.

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, 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