

9 July 2026

FOI Ref

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

This request is made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I request the following information for the period **1 January 2018 to the most recent date available**.

Please provide the number of recorded crimes within your police force area where the suspect or offender was recorded as:

- having entered the United Kingdom by crossing the English Channel from France in a small boat;
- being an asylum seeker;
- having been granted refugee status;
- being a failed asylum seeker;
- residing in Home Office asylum accommodation, including asylum hotels, contingency accommodation, dispersal accommodation, barges or military accommodation.

Where held, please provide annual totals for:

- Recorded crimes (alleged offences)
- Arrests
- Voluntary interviews
- Charges
- Files submitted to the Crown Prosecution Service
- Outcomes
- Convictions (if held)

Please provide a breakdown by offence category including:

- Homicide
- Violence Against the Person
- Sexual Offences
- Rape
- Assault by Penetration
- Sexual Assault
- Child Sexual Offences
- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Grooming
- Indecent Images of Children
- Exposure
- Voyeurism
- Robbery
- Burglary
- Theft
- Criminal Damage
- Fraud



- Drug Offences
- Weapons Offences
- Public Order Offences
- Hate Crime
- Domestic Abuse-related Offences
- Modern Slavery Offences
- Immigration Offences
- All Other Recorded Offences

Please also confirm:

1. Whether your force records or has access to any field identifying:
 - immigration status;
 - asylum status;
 - refugee status;
 - method of entry into the UK;
 - Home Office asylum accommodation.
2. Which systems or databases were searched to answer this request.
3. If the requested information is not held, whether your force instead records:
 - nationality;
 - country of birth;
 - foreign national offender markers;
 - Home Office immigration checks;
 - or any other field capable of identifying non-UK nationals.

If the precise information requested is not held, please provide any relevant management information, statistical reports, intelligence assessments, or aggregated data falling within the scope of this request.

If any part of this request exceeds the appropriate cost limit under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide advice and assistance under Section 16 to enable the request to be refined rather than refusing it in full.

Please provide the information electronically in Excel or CSV format where possible.

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. SP currently have a qualifier for 'asylum seeker/refugee' within our crime/occurrence recording system (Niche), however this may not always be applied to an occurrence log where relevant as it is not mandatory to record such information. This is the only qualifier we have as a force for recording the immigration status or means of entry into the UK of suspects, offenders and victims. Therefore, in order to fulfil this request in its entirety, it would involve the manual review of every crime/occurrence record over the time period to determine the immigration status of each suspect/offender, which would engage Section 12 as there are over 706,000 occurrences recorded. 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 58,833 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.

If your request was refined, SP would be able to provide the following:

Between 2018 and June 2026, the number of crimes recorded where an asylum seeker/refugee qualifier was added to the crime record, where the asylum seeker/refugee was recorded as the suspect or offender, broken down by offence type and Home Office outcome.

In addition, SP can confirm that there is a field to record the nationality of individuals recorded on our crime/occurrence recording systems.

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



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

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.

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