



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

Our Ref: FOI 23097
Your Ref: FOI 22974
Date: 10 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 (SP) on 08/06/2026.

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

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide the following information regarding your force's response to the criminal exploitation of girls and young women.

1. Does your force have a specific, dedicated project, initiative or strategy for supporting female victims (including girls under 18 and young women aged 18–24) of criminal exploitation or county lines? **(Yes/No)**
2. If the answer to Question 1 is **Yes**, please state the official name of this project/initiative/strategy and the year it was launched.

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

Thanks for this.

However I would like to request a brief internal review and clarification regarding the response.

To ensure the integrity of my comparative research dataset, I am looking strictly for initiatives that explicitly combine **female-specific support** with **criminal exploitation/county lines**.

I am incredibly grateful for the details on Operation Makesafe and Operation Vigilant, but looking closely at their remits, they appear to sit just outside these narrow parameters:

- Operation Makesafe seems to be a general initiative protecting all children under 18, rather than a strategy dedicated specifically to female victims.
- Operation Vigilant does not seem to focus on criminal exploitation or county lines syndicates for the 18–24 age bracket.

Because my study specifically measures dedicated, gender-specific frameworks for criminal exploitation, recording this as a standard "Yes" would inadvertently misrepresent the data.

Could the force please review this request and clarify if there is a specific, dedicated strategy solely for female victims of criminal exploitation? If no such standalone strategy exists, please let me know if it would be more accurate for my dataset to record this response as a "No."

Thank you so much for your time.

SP Response

Please be advised that an internal review is an opportunity for a review of the initial questions posed within your original request, however at internal review you are asking more specific questions relating to any dedicated strategy **solely for female victims** so based on this SP revised response to these specific questions would be:

1. Does your force have a specific, dedicated project, initiative or strategy for supporting female victims (including girls under 18 and young women aged 18–24) of criminal exploitation or county lines? **Disclosed – No, not gender specific for women and girls. SP strategies, initiatives and projects are not gender specific for women and girls, but address harm more broadly across criminal exploitation.**
2. If the answer to Question 1 is **Yes**, please state the official name of this project/initiative/strategy and the year it was launched. **No information held.**

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/>

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