

10 July 2026

FOI Ref 23099

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

Original Request (FOI 23072):

- Number of recorded suicides within your force area by those aged under 21 within the last 5 years
- Please provide a breakdown of this figure year by year and separate it into Gender (at Birth)
- For those that took place in public, please provide me a list of the recorded locations

Correspondence with applicant:

SP have a filter for 'sudden deaths' which was used to estimate the length of time it would have taken to retrieve suicide information, if held, for this request.

It is possible to conduct a keyword search for the term 'suicide' within these sudden death incidents. However, as previously explained, this would not be a true confirmation as to whether an individual has committed suicide, as this would be determined by the coroner and therefore may not be held by SP.

Response from applicant:

That will be sufficient if you can do by "SUICIDE" and verify that death occurred.

SP received your request on 08/07/2026 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.

- That will be sufficient if you can do by "SUICIDE" and verify that death occurred. – **Disclosed, between 03/07/2021 and 03/07/2026, SP have 839 incidents recorded whereby the term 'suicide' is mentioned within the incident log and the call type description is recorded as 'sudden death' or suspicious/unexpected death'. SP are unable to break this data down by age, gender or location without engaging Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act.**

This data was obtained by completing a summary search for the term "suicide". The accuracy and reliability of these searches cannot be guaranteed as only the incident log of the report is searched. If this term is mentioned elsewhere (i.e. within the crime report, statements etc) these will not be returned in the results. Additionally, if the term is misspelt within the incident log, this will not be returned. To provide accurate results would require manually interrogating each incident within the specified timeframe to establish its relevance to your request.

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/software. Additional incidents 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.

As a consequence, care should be taken in the interpretation and presentation of this data, so as 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.



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

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