

22 July 2026

FOI Ref 23102

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

1. In the following years, please provide figures for:
 - a. the number of child sexual abuse cases your force investigated during 1 Jan – 31 Dec 2020, 1 Jan – 31 Dec 2021, 1 Jan – 31 Dec 2022, 1 Jan – 31 Dec 2023, 1 Jan – 31 Dec 2024, 1 Jan – 31 Dec 2025 and 1 Jan – 30 June 2026.
 - b. Please provide an ethnic and gender breakdown of the suspect for each corresponding year in a table. When it comes to ethnicity, please make clear whether it is self-defined ethnicity or officer ethnicity. If possible, please give both sets of data.
 - c. Please provide an ethnic and gender breakdown of the victims/survivors for each corresponding year in a table. When it comes to ethnicity, please make clear whether it is self-defined ethnicity or officer ethnicity. If possible, please give both sets of data.
 - d. Please provide the ages of the youngest and oldest child sexually abused/exploited for each corresponding year in a table.
 - e. Please provide figures for the number of cases which resulted in the arrests of suspects.
 - f. Please provide the outcomes of the arrests e.g., no further action, charged, sent to crown court or whichever way you record outcomes.
2. Turning to 'group-based child sexual exploitation/abuse', in other words so-called 'grooming gangs'. In the following years, please provide figures for:
 - a. the number of group-based child sexual exploitation/abuse' cases your force investigated during the following years: 1 Jan – 31 Dec 2020, 1 Jan – 31 Dec 2021, 1 Jan – 31 Dec 2022, 1 Jan – 31 Dec 2023, 1 Jan – 31 Dec 2024, 1 Jan – 31 Dec 2025 and 1 Jan – 30 June 2026.
 - b. Please provide an ethnic and gender breakdown of the suspects for each corresponding year in a table. When it comes to ethnicity, please make clear whether it is self-defined ethnicity or officer ethnicity. If possible, please give both sets of data.
 - c. Please provide an ethnic and gender breakdown of the victims/survivors for each corresponding year in a table. When it comes to ethnicity, please make clear whether it is self-defined ethnicity or officer ethnicity. If possible, please give both sets of data.
 - d. Please provide the ages of the youngest and oldest child sexually abused/exploited for each corresponding year in a table.
 - e. Please provide figures for the number of cases which resulted in the arrests of suspects.

f. Please provide the outcomes of the arrests e.g., no further action, charged, sent to crown court or whichever way you record outcomes.

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.

1. In the following years, please provide figures for:

a. the number of child sexual abuse cases your force investigated during 1 Jan – 31 Dec 2020, 1 Jan – 31 Dec 2021, 1 Jan – 31 Dec 2022, 1 Jan – 31 Dec 2023, 1 Jan – 31 Dec 2024, 1 Jan – 31 Dec 2025 and 1 Jan – 30 June 2026. – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 23102 Child Sexual Abuse Data'.**

b. Please provide an ethnic and gender breakdown of the suspect for each corresponding year in a table. When it comes to ethnicity, please make clear whether it is self-defined ethnicity or officer ethnicity. If possible, please give both sets of data. – **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 23102 Child Sexual Abuse Data'.**

c. Please provide an ethnic and gender breakdown of the victims/survivors for each corresponding year in a table. When it comes to ethnicity, please make clear whether it is self-defined ethnicity or officer ethnicity. If possible, please give both sets of data. – **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 23102 Child Sexual Abuse Data'.**

d. Please provide the ages of the youngest and oldest child sexually abused/exploited for each corresponding year in a table. – **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 23102 Child Sexual Abuse Data'.**

e. Please provide figures for the number of cases which resulted in the arrests of suspects. – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 23102 Child Sexual Abuse Data'.**

f. Please provide the outcomes of the arrests e.g., no further action, charged, sent to crown court or whichever way you record outcomes. – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 23102 Child Sexual Abuse Data'.**

This data has been extracted from our Crime/Occurrence recording system where the child sexual abuse qualifier has been applied. This data has then been broken down by gender and self defined ethnicity for both victim and suspect/offender data. This dataset may not match due to multiple ethnicities recorded, where an offender or suspect identifies under multiple ethnicities SP systems allow upto three ethnicities to be recorded per individual. This data has then be filtered for the youngest and oldest age recorded. SP are aware that the ages presented do not reflect the parameters of the question, however this is the data held at the time of the request. The data presented is subject to the inaccuracies and idiosyncrasies inherent in any large-scale recording system. This data has then been broken down by where the suspect/offender has been arrested and the outcomes.

2. Turning to 'group-based child sexual exploitation/abuse', in other words so-called 'grooming gangs'. In the following years, please provide figures for: – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 23102 Child Sexual Abuse Data'.**

a. the number of group-based child sexual exploitation/abuse' cases your force investigated during the following years: 1 Jan – 31 Dec 2020, 1 Jan – 31 Dec 2021, 1 Jan – 31 Dec 2022, 1 Jan – 31 Dec 2023, 1 Jan – 31 Dec 2024, 1 Jan – 31 Dec 2025 and 1 Jan – 30 June 2026. . – **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 23102 Child Sexual Abuse Data'.**

b. Please provide an ethnic and gender breakdown of the suspects for each corresponding year in a table. When it comes to ethnicity, please make clear whether it is self-defined ethnicity or officer ethnicity. If possible, please give both sets of data. . – **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 23102 Child Sexual Abuse Data'.**

Please be advised that the disclosed data relates to self defined ethnicity for victims and the total may not match as there could be multiple ethnicities recorded per one occurrence.

c. Please provide an ethnic and gender breakdown of the victims/survivors for each corresponding year in a table. When it comes to ethnicity, please make clear whether it is self-defined ethnicity or officer ethnicity. If possible, please give both sets of data. . – **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 23102 Child Sexual Abuse Data'.**

d. Please provide the ages of the youngest and oldest child sexually abused/exploited for each corresponding year in a table. . – **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 23102 Child Sexual Abuse Data'.**

e. Please provide figures for the number of cases which resulted in the arrests of suspects. . – **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 23102 Child Sexual Abuse Data'.**

f. Please provide the outcomes of the arrests e.g., no further action, charged, sent to crown court or whichever way you record outcomes. – **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 23102 Child Sexual Abuse Data'.**

This data has been extracted from our Crime/Occurrence recording system where the child exploitation qualifier has been applied and where there is more than one suspect/offender per the occurrence. This data has then been broken down by gender and self defined ethnicity for both victim and suspect/offender, this data may not match due to multiple ethnicities recorded. This data has then be filtered for the youngest and oldest age recorded. Please note the dataset presented is subject to the inaccuracies and idiosyncrasies inherent in any large-scale recording system. This data has then been broken down by where the suspect/offender has been arrested and the outcomes.

There are 499 offences currently under investigation, therefore, Section 30(1)(a)(b) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 has been applied – Investigations conducted by Public Authorities.

The following exemption has been applied:

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

- Section 30(1)(a)(b) – Criminal Investigations

Section 30 is qualified and class based and, as such, we are required to apply the public interest test.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring disclosure under Section 30(1)(a)(b)

Disclosure of the information would improve the public's knowledge and understanding of the investigatory process and, as all police investigations are publicly funded, would show how public funds are being spent.

Factors favouring non-disclosure under Section 30(1)(a)(b)

Disclosure of the requested information would prejudice how investigations are carried out in the future. SP is charged with enforcing the law, preventing and detecting crime and protecting the communities SP serves. Any release of information relating to ongoing investigations could prejudice and undermine those investigations. The prevention and detection of such matters could therefore be hindered and therefore risk interference with evidence, which could have detrimental impact on future investigations. In addition, the right to a fair trial could be undermined.

Balance test

Disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act is a release of information to the world in general and not an individual applicant. Having considered the public interest factors SP are required to determine whether on balance the factors favouring disclosure outweigh those which are against disclosure. It is SP's view that the factors favouring disclosure do not outweigh those which favour non-disclosure.

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 arrests/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.

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.

Please be advised that 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 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, taking into account 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