



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

Our Ref: FOI 23104
Your Ref: FOI 23050
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 (S.P) on 26/06/2026.

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

Please note the information sought is in relation to present day crimes and not historical.

Violent and sexual offences at dance premises, including dance school, dance schools, dance academy/academies etc 2025/2026

1. How many alleged violent offences and sexual offences, (including breakdown) have been recorded as crimes, on dance premises (including dance school, dance academy etc) in 2025/2026?
2. How many alleged violent offences and sexual offences, (including breakdown) have been recorded as crimes, on dance premises (including dance school, dance academy etc) in which the victim was aged under 18 (breakdown of age if possible) in 2025/2026?
3. How many alleged violent offences and sexual offences, (including breakdown) have been recorded as crimes, on dance premises (including dance school, dance academy etc) in which the perpetrator was over 18 in 2025/2026?
4. Is there any more information in relation to the perpetrator in terms of profession (ie Dance coach, dance principle, dance school owner etc)?

Violent and sexual offences at dance premises, including dance school, dance schools, dance academy/academies etc 2024/2025

5. How many alleged violent offences and sexual offences, (including breakdown) have been recorded as crimes, on dance premises (including dance school, dance academy etc) in 2024/2025?



6. How many alleged violent offences and sexual offences, (including breakdown) have been recorded as crimes, on dance premises (including dance school, dance academy etc) in which the victim was aged under 18 (breakdown of age if possible) in 2024/2025
7. How many alleged violent offences and sexual offences, (including breakdown) have been recorded as crimes, on dance premises (including dance school, dance academy etc) in which the perpetrator was over 18 in 2024/2025?
8. Is there any more information in relation to the perpetrator in terms of profession (ie Dance coach, dance principle, dance school owner etc)?

Violent and sexual offences at dance premises, including dance school, dance schools, dance academy/academies etc 2023/2024

9. How many alleged violent offences and sexual offences, (including breakdown) have been recorded as crimes, on dance premises (including dance school, dance academy etc) in 2023/2024?
10. How many alleged violent offences and sexual offences, (including breakdown) have been recorded as crimes, on dance premises (including dance school, dance academy etc) in which the victim was aged under 18 (breakdown of age if possible) in 2023/2024?
11. How many alleged violent offences and sexual offences, (including breakdown) have been recorded as crimes, on dance premises (including dance school, dance academy etc) in which the perpetrator was over 18 in 2023/2024?
12. Is there any more information in relation to the perpetrator in terms of profession (ie Dance coach, dance principle, dance school owner etc)?

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

Thank you for your email. Please see my grounds for Appeal.

Otherwise it is a statement of fact: Staffordshire Police does not know how many alleged violent or sexual offences occur at dance premises attended by children and adults in its police force area. If your team still feels this request is beyond cost I would like to appeal on the following grounds

1. Other Police forces in the UK say they can return this data.
2. It is within cost as this data should be held in an easily accessible digital format - in this digital age records should be digitised.



3. Your Force should know how many crimes/arrests are made involving academies or dance school , it is worrying you do not record this data, or have it in an instantly obtainable form - and if your police force cannot issue this data it means it does not know how many crimes happen at dance schools or academies in your patch.
4. It is in the public interest that police forces collect this data (using location markers) in easily accessible formats, if the public cannot find out how many types of these crimes are taking place, how do forces, the community take steps to prevent these crimes from happening?
5. I believe your force must currently hold these figures in an easily retrievable form, otherwise this lack of data, or no knowledge of these crimes would be of interest to the public, ie if you do not know who exactly is committing crimes, and where they are specifically from.
6. Your force has given me this data before, in terms of violent crimes in schools and sex crimes. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-34138287>
7. Also last March in relation to violence in schools <https://www.dailymail.com/news/article-14538855/violent-crime-Britains-classrooms-knives-poison-kidnap.htm>

SP Response

Upon review of your request for information under the Freedom of Information provision referenced above and all corresponding communication, S.P are of the opinion that the response issued, alongside all clarification provided, fully answers the terms of your request.

S.P also confirm that the application of the exemption cited within this response is fully justified.

However, in order to address the concerns raised within your request for internal review, please find below some further expansion upon our approach and rationale for the initial response.

1. Other Police forces in the UK say they can return this data.

We note your concerns regarding the precedent set by other forces; however, it is of importance to note that differing forces use different crime recording systems and extraction tools. Furthermore, configuration of these systems and tools can vary dramatically from force to force. This will mean that, whilst it may be mandatory to record certain information within one force, this may not be recordable or even mandatory to record within another. Likewise, extraction methods employed within any given force will differ to those of another. This will mean that the level and variety of data providable by one force will very often not be replicated in another.

2. It is within cost as this data should be held in an easily accessible digital format - in this digital age records should be digitised.
3. Your Force should know how many crimes/arrests are made involving academies or dance school, it is worrying you do not record this data, or have it in an instantly obtainable form - and if your police force cannot issue this data it means it does not know how many crimes happen at dance schools or academies in your patch.

SP apologises if our rationale for application of Section 12 (1) was unclear. Whilst our records are fully digitised, the issue lies in the fact that there are no predefined location flags or types within our crime recording database which relate specifically to 'Dance Schools' - or premises in which teaching may relate to dance activities; these often being distinctly different and separate from regular educational premises, primary/secondary schools, colleges or academies.

It is worth noting that many of these dance schools are held or run from various unaffiliated premises, both public and private – such as social clubs, village halls, country clubs, leisure centres or other municipal or private addresses. This exacerbates creation of a flag specific to dance schools as all of these premises types are used for a multitude of different activities. Additionally, a single dance school may work or operate out of any number of locations, having classes at one location on one evening and another location on a different evening, this further exacerbates the issue.

Where offences occurred during dance classes, the location would be recorded against either the street address or, where a valid premises type exists within our database, against the premises type e.g Leisure Centre. Detail of whether the offence was conducted during the teaching of dance at this premises would then form part of the wider crime report and may be recorded across any number of different free text fields within the report.

Therefore, as outlined within our original response, the only way to determine whether an offence of any description was conducted during the teaching of dance would be to manually review the crime report for all relevant offences and manually determine whether they match the requirements of your request.

4. It is in the public interest that police forces collect this data (using location markers) in easily accessible formats, if the public cannot find out how many types of these crimes are taking place, how do forces, the community take steps to prevent these crimes from happening?

As stated above, whilst our crime recording database does have pre-defined location markers or flags, these cannot readily be created or effectively applied for nonspecific locales or organisations working from a variety of nebulous locations such as Leisure Centres and Village Halls, which can accommodate innumerable activities, classes or schools.



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5. I believe your force must currently hold these figures in an easily retrievable form, otherwise this lack of data, or no knowledge of these crimes would be of interest to the public, ie if you do not know who exactly is committing crimes, and where they are specifically from.

Whilst S.P may hold the data requested, the impediments outlined above prevent us from extracting this data within the time constraints prescribed by the Act and therefore your request in its current form attracts exemption under Section 12(1).

6. Your force has given me this data before, in terms of violent crimes in schools and sex crimes. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-34138287>
7. Also last March in relation to violence in schools <https://www.dailymail.com/news/article-14538855/violent-crime-Britains-classrooms-knives-poison-kidnap.htm>

As previously stated, predefined location identifiers for conventional educational premises do exist within our Crime recording database and therefore data relating to offences occurring at these locations can be provided.

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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