

22 July 2026

FOI Ref 23123

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

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide the number of distinct crime records, broken down by the year in which the crime was recorded, for:

each calendar year from 2020 to 2025; and

1 January to 30 June 2026.

Please identify crime records where the occurrence summary, modus operandi description or equivalent electronically searchable free-text field contains:

“Roblox”; and at least one of the following terms:

“terrorist”, “terrorism”, “Terrorism Act”, “counter-terrorism”, “counter terrorism”, “ISIS”, “ISIL”, “Islamic State”, “Daesh”, “Al-Qaeda”, “Al Qaeda”, “Islamist”, “Islamism”, “jihad”, “jihadist”, “jihadi”, “radicalisation”, “radicalization”, “radicalised”, “radicalized”, “extremism”, “extremist”, “Prevent referral” or “referred to Prevent”.

Please provide annual totals only, count each matching crime record once and record nil returns as zero.

This request is limited to the raw results of electronic keyword searches. I am not requesting manual examination or validation of individual records.

Please state which crime-recording system and searchable free-text field or fields were searched.

If section 12 is considered applicable, please advise what narrower electronic search could be completed within the appropriate limit.

SP received your request on 13/07/2026 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

SP’s response to your enquiry is as follows:

SP can neither confirm nor deny whether information relevant to this request is held, as the duty in Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 does not apply by virtue of the following exemptions:

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

- Section 24 (2) – National Security

Section 24 is a qualified exemption and as such there is a requirement to articulate the harm and conduct a test of the public interest.

- **Section 31 (3) Law Enforcement**

Section 31 is a qualified exemption and as such there is a requirement to articulate the harm and conduct a test of the public interest.

Harm

Confirming or denying whether SP holds information falling within the scope of this request would, in itself, reveal information about whether SP has identified, recorded or otherwise encountered matters linking Roblox to terrorism, extremism, radicalisation or Prevent-related concerns.

Whilst Roblox is a widely used online gaming platform, the request is not simply seeking information about its use. Rather, it seeks to establish whether police records contain references to Roblox in conjunction with terminology associated with terrorism, extremism, radicalisation and Prevent activity. Confirmation or denial would therefore provide insight into whether such matters have come to the attention of SP and have been recorded within crime and safeguarding systems.

Even where no information is held, confirmation of that fact would itself be informative. Responses provided by individual forces could be compared and aggregated, enabling a requester to build a broader picture of the extent to which particular online platforms feature within police records relating to terrorism, extremism, radicalisation and Prevent-related activity across the United Kingdom. This mosaic effect could assist those seeking to understand policing's awareness of particular platforms, assess the extent to which such environments are associated with police activity, or identify perceived gaps in police knowledge and intelligence. Such information could be used to adapt behaviours, exploit vulnerabilities or otherwise seek to avoid detection and intervention.

The release of information capable of contributing to a broader understanding of policing's knowledge and activity concerning terrorism and extremism would be likely to prejudice the prevention and detection of crime, the apprehension or prosecution of offenders and the broader law enforcement functions of the police service.

Furthermore, counter-terrorism and Prevent-related activity forms part of the wider framework for protecting national security. Confirmation or denial of whether information is held would provide insight into the extent to which such matters have been encountered by policing and could undermine efforts to identify and respond to threats associated with terrorism and extremism. Accordingly, confirmation or denial would be likely to result in prejudice to both national security and law enforcement functions.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring confirming or denying information is held – Section 24(2)

There is a public interest in transparency regarding the extent to which online platforms may feature within policing activity relating to terrorism, extremism and radicalisation. Confirming or denying whether information is held would contribute to public understanding of emerging risks associated with online environments and provide greater insight into the challenges faced by policing.

There is also a public interest in demonstrating that police forces appropriately identify and record matters associated with terrorism, extremism and safeguarding. Greater openness can promote accountability, reassure the public that relevant concerns are recognised and addressed, and support informed debate regarding online safety and radicalisation.

Factors favouring not confirming or denying information is held – Section 24(2)

There is a compelling public interest in safeguarding national security. Confirming or denying whether information is held would reveal whether police records contain information linking a specific online platform to terrorism, extremism, radicalisation or Prevent-related concerns.

Information of this nature could enable those with malicious intent to make inferences regarding policing's awareness of particular platforms, environments or behaviours. Even seemingly limited disclosures can be valuable when combined with information already available from other sources.

Responses from multiple police forces could be compared and aggregated, contributing to a broader understanding of the extent to which such matters have come to police attention across the United Kingdom. This could assist those seeking to assess counter-terrorism awareness, policing activity and potential vulnerabilities.

There is a strong and enduring public interest in ensuring that information is not released where doing so could undermine activities undertaken to protect national security and public safety.

Factors favouring confirming or denying information is held – Section 31(3)

There is a public interest in promoting openness and transparency regarding police recording practices and the way in which policing responds to concerns relating to terrorism, extremism and radicalisation.

Confirming or denying whether information is held would assist public understanding of the prevalence of such matters within police records and facilitate scrutiny of the effectiveness of policing responses to emerging online threats and safeguarding concerns. Disclosure would also contribute to public confidence by demonstrating accountability in respect of the identification and recording of matters relating to terrorism, extremism and Prevent activity.

Factors favouring not confirming or denying information is held – Section 31(3)

There is a significant public interest in protecting the ability of the police service to prevent and detect crime and apprehend offenders. Confirming or denying whether information is held would reveal information about the extent to which particular online platforms feature within police crime and safeguarding records relating to terrorism, extremism and radicalisation.

Information regarding whether such records exist could assist those seeking to understand policing's awareness of particular online environments, avoid detection or identify perceived gaps within police knowledge and intelligence.

Furthermore, responses from different police forces could be compared and aggregated, enabling a broader picture of policing activity, awareness and record holdings concerning terrorism and extremism to be developed. This would increase the risk of prejudice to law enforcement functions.

There is a strong public interest in ensuring that policing's ability to identify, prevent and respond to criminal and extremist activity is not undermined through incremental disclosures that contribute to a wider intelligence picture.

Balance Test

Whilst SP recognises the public interest in openness, transparency, and accountability regarding policing's response to terrorism, extremism, radicalisation and safeguarding concerns, greater weight must be afforded to the significant public interest in protecting national security and the effectiveness of law enforcement.

Confirming or denying whether information is held would reveal whether police records contain information linking Roblox to terrorism, extremism, radicalisation, or Prevent-related concerns. Responses from multiple forces could also be compared and aggregated, contributing to a broader understanding of policing's awareness of such activity and the extent to which it has been encountered across the United Kingdom.

SP considers that confirmation or denial would be likely to prejudice both national security and law enforcement functions. Therefore, the potential prejudice arising from confirmation or denial outweighs the benefits of increased transparency and the balance of the public interest favours maintaining the neither confirm nor deny position under Sections 24(2) and 31(3) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

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, 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