

17 July 2026

FOI Ref 23130

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

I am writing to request information and confirmation about whether any UK public authority (including police forces) has authorised or used directed-energy devices or other equipment capable of causing pain, burning or similar effects through walls or from off-site locations in [on our street, surrounding neighbours including my current address 105 Wileman street] during the period [since 2024].

Please provide:

Whether any authorisations or warrants were issued for the use of such devices by any public authority in the stated area/timeframe; if so, the identity of the authorising body, dates and the legal basis for authorisation.

Details of which public authority requested or used the equipment (if any).

Any guidance, policy or oversight documents relating to authorisation, proportionality and medical safeguards for use of directed-energy devices by public authorities.

If no such authorisations exist, please confirm that as well.

Please treat this as a formal enquiry under your public information obligations. I would be grateful for a written response and an indication of any steps I should take if I wish to make a formal complaint.

SP received your request on 14/07/2026 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

SP's response to your enquiry is as follows:

SP holds some of the requested information.

- Whether any authorisations or warrants were issued for the use of such devices by any public authority in the stated area/timeframe; if so, the identity of the authorising body, dates and the legal basis for authorisation. – **No information held.**
- Details of which public authority requested or used the equipment (if any). – **No information held.**
- Any guidance, policy or oversight documents relating to authorisation, proportionality and medical safeguards for use of directed-energy devices by public authorities. – **No information held.**
- If no such authorisations exist, please confirm that as well. – **No information held.**
- Please treat this as a formal enquiry under your public information obligations. I would be grateful for a written response and an indication of any steps I should take if I wish to make a formal complaint. – **Withheld, Section 21. Please see below.**



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 21(1) - Information reasonably accessible by other means.

Section 21 is an absolute, class-based exemption and as such there is no requirement to quantify the harm that may arise from the disclosure, nor is there a requirement to perform a Public Interest Test.

Advice and assistance

In order to comply with our obligations under Section 16 of the Act, the obligation to provide advice and assistance, please find below links to the information requested.

[Complaints | Staffordshire Police](#)

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.

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