

21 July 2026

FOI Ref 23134

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

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please see the attached and below.

This request concerns incidents involving deer and vehicles recorded on your force's command-and-control / incident-logging system (for example STORM or equivalent). It does *not* concern STATS19 personal-injury collision records, which are published nationally.

We want to know how many incidents there are annually involving deer and vehicles, either colliding with or swerving to avoid deer.

I am happy for the figures to be based on a keyword search for "deer" (and related terms such as stag, doe or fawn), and for the counts to be approximate.

Requested information

1. For each of the calendar years 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025, how many incidents recorded on your command-and-control / incident system referred to a deer on or near a road? Please provide a separate figure for each year and break it down by monthly data if available.
2. Of those incidents, how many involved a vehicle either colliding with, or swerving to avoid, a deer? A combined figure is acceptable.
3. If possible, in addition to the above, for the same calendar years, can you list all recorded incidents with cows (cattle), horses, sheep, pigs and boar.
4. If readily available, please provide the road type (motorway, A-road, B-road or other) where the incidents above occurred.

Please provide the response in a machine-readable format (Excel or CSV) where possible.

I look forward to your response within 20 working days and would be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of this request.

SP received your request on 15/07/2026 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

SP's response to your enquiry is as follows:

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

The following exemption has been applied:

- Section 12(1) where the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit.

Section 12(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the prescribed limit'.

The above information has been withheld for the following reasons:

There is no method by which SP can readily retrieve information from local police systems to answer this request. For the period requested, there have been more than 2,000 incidents recorded on the command-and-control system of SP where the incident referred to a deer on or near a road. To ascertain whether these incidents involved a vehicle either colliding with, or swerving to avoid, a deer, or as to determine the road type, the record for each offence would require a manual review. To extract this data would therefore require a very labour-intensive manual trawl through each record.

From dip sampling, it has been estimated that it would take approximately 5 minutes to review each record to answer this request, which would equate to over 160 hours. To achieve this task would therefore exceed the 18-hour time and cost threshold of the Freedom of Information Act by a considerable margin.

Advice and assistance

Section 16 of the Act places an obligation upon the Authority to provide advice and assistance, to comply with this obligation please see below.

Question 1 can be answered in full. If you refined question 2 to say, 'all road traffic collisions where the word, 'DEER' was mentioned in a keyword search of the log,' then this question could be answered. Question 3 can be answered in full. Unfortunately, as regards question 4, SP cannot suggest a way in which your request could be simplified or pared down to bring it within the confines of the time and cost threshold. Therefore question 4 would need to be removed.

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:



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

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