

22 July 2026

FOI Ref 23152

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

Thank you for your response to my request and for the advice and assistance provided under section 16 of the Freedom of Information Act.

In light of your explanation regarding the cost limit, I would like to refine my request.

Please provide:

1. The number of arrests recorded under Section 1 of the Malicious Communications Act 1988 for each calendar year from 2017 to 2025, broken down by the recorded arrest reason descriptions you identified, namely:
  - "Send communication / article of an indecent / offensive nature";
  - "Send letter / communication / article conveying a threatening message";
  - "Send letter / communication / article conveying indecent / offensive message";
  - and any other equivalent recorded arrest reason descriptions used for offences under Section 1 of the Malicious Communications Act 1988.
2. For arrests recorded during calendar year 2025 only, please provide a breakdown of the communication method or medium used, where this information is recorded during your manual review. Please use the terminology exactly as recorded in the relevant records and do not create new categories or classifications.
3. Where no communication method is recorded for a particular arrest, please record this simply as "not recorded" (or your equivalent).

If, during processing, any aspect of this refined request is still considered likely to exceed the appropriate cost limit, I would be grateful if you would contact me before refusing the request so that I may refine it further.

Many thanks for your assistance.

**Clarification received from applicant on 22/07/2026:**

Yes, I am happy to receive case this data 2020. Thank you.

SP received your request on 20/07/2026 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. The number of arrests recorded under Section 1 of the Malicious Communications Act 1988 for each calendar year from 2017 to 2025, broken down by the recorded arrest reason descriptions you identified, namely:



- "Send communication / article of an indecent / offensive nature";
  - "Send letter / communication / article conveying a threatening message";
  - "Send letter / communication / article conveying indecent / offensive message";
  - and any other equivalent recorded arrest reason descriptions used for offences under Section 1 of the Malicious Communications Act 1988. – **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 23152 Refinement of FOI 23127 Malicious Communications Act Data'.**
2. For arrests recorded during calendar year 2025 only, please provide a breakdown of the communication method or medium used, where this information is recorded during your manual review. Please use the terminology exactly as recorded in the relevant records and do not create new categories or classifications. - **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 23152 Refinement of FOI 23127 Malicious Communications Act Data'.**
3. Where no communication method is recorded for a particular arrest, please record this simply as "not recorded" (or your equivalent). – **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 23152 Refinement of FOI 23127 Malicious Communications Act Data'.**

As agreed, this data has been provided from 2020 onwards. The figures for Questions 2 and 3 are higher than the total for Question 1 because more than one communication method or medium may have been used in a single case.

Please note that 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 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.

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.



STAFFORDSHIRE  
**POLICE**

## **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](mailto: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