

23 July 2026

FOI Ref 23160

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

I am undertaking historical research into the death of **Terence Joseph Yardley**, whose body was recovered near Hazelford Ferry, Nottinghamshire, on **14 April 1970**, following his disappearance from Burton upon Trent on **26 March 1970**.

I am not seeking access to the investigation file or any personal information. Rather, I am hoping to clarify one specific historical point relating to the formal identification of Mr Yardley following the recovery of his body.

Nottinghamshire Police have recently confirmed that they do **not** hold any surviving records that answer this question.

Could you therefore please advise:

1. Does Staffordshire Police hold any surviving records indicating **which police force was responsible for formally establishing the identity** of the body recovered near Hazelford Ferry on 14 April 1970?
2. If Staffordshire Police was responsible, do any surviving records indicate **how the identification was made** (for example, by a family member, fingerprints, dental records, personal effects or another method)?
3. If Staffordshire Police was not responsible for the identification process, do your surviving records indicate **which organisation or agency undertook that role**?

This enquiry forms part of a historical research project and seeks only clarification of the identification process rather than access to wider investigative material.

If no relevant records are held, I should be grateful if you could simply confirm this.

SP received your request on 21/07/2026 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

SP's response to your enquiry is as follows:

SP does not hold the requested information.

- Does Staffordshire Police hold any surviving records indicating which police force was responsible for formally establishing the identity of the body recovered near Hazelford Ferry on 14 April 1970? – **No information held.**
- If Staffordshire Police was responsible, do any surviving records indicate how the identification was made (for example, by a family member, fingerprints, dental records, personal effects or another method)? – **No information held.**
- If Staffordshire Police was not responsible for the identification process, do your surviving records indicate which organisation or agency undertook that role? – **No information held.**

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.



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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