

8 June 2026

FOI Ref 22836

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

I would like to request data relating to car thefts within your police force area over the last three calendar years. Specifically, please provide the following:

The total number of reported car thefts for each of the following years: 2023 2024 2025 (or the most recent year available) Where possible, please include a yearly breakdown of the data as separate totals.

In addition, where available, please provide a monthly breakdown of these figures for each year.

For the purposes of this request, I would like the above data broken down for the area of Stoke-on-Trent. If data is not held specifically at city level, please provide the closest available geographic breakdown (e.g. borough, district, or policing area) that corresponds to these locations, and indicate how these areas map to the requested cities.

If exact figures are not held in this format, I would be grateful if you could provide the closest available equivalent data or reasonable estimates based on existing records. If your internal definitions differ, please provide the data according to your standard classifications and include a brief explanation of how the figures are defined. If any of this information is already publicly available, I would appreciate it if you could direct me to the specific source.

CLARIFICATION Sought as follows:

'In your request you specifically ask for the total number of car thefts. Crimes are recorded using Home Office classifications. There is a specific H.O. classification for vehicle theft but none specifically for car theft. Whilst the crime recording system used by Staffordshire Police does have a field to further breakdown thefts of vehicles to 'car thefts', this field is not a compulsory field for officers to complete and hence such a search of the system will return highly inaccurate data. Therefore, please indicate whether you would like your request to remain as 'car thefts', or be amended to 'vehicle thefts'.'

CLARIFICATION Received on 04/06/2026 I would like my request to remain as 'car thefts' if possible.

SP received your request on 05/05/2026 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.

I would like to request data relating to car thefts within your police force area over the last three calendar years. Specifically, please provide the following:

The total number of reported car thefts for each of the following years: 2023 2024 2025 (or the most recent year available) Where possible, please include a yearly breakdown of the data as separate totals.

In addition, where available, please provide a monthly breakdown of these figures for each year.

For the purposes of this request, I would like the above data broken down for the area of Stoke-on-Trent. If data is not held specifically at city level, please provide the closest available geographic breakdown (e.g. borough, district, or policing area) that corresponds to these locations, and indicate how these areas map to the requested cities.

If exact figures are not held in this format, I would be grateful if you could provide the closest available equivalent data or reasonable estimates based on existing records. If your internal definitions differ, please provide the data according to your standard classifications and include a brief explanation of how the figures are defined. If any of this information is already publicly available, I would appreciate it if you could direct me to the specific source.

CLARIFICATION Sought as follows:

'In your request you specifically ask for the total number of car thefts. Crimes are recorded using Home Office classifications. There is a specific H.O. classification for vehicle theft but none specifically for car theft. Whilst the crime recording system used by Staffordshire Police does have a field to further breakdown thefts of vehicles to 'car thefts', this field is not a compulsory field for officers to complete and hence such a search of the system will return highly inaccurate data. Therefore, please indicate whether you would like your request to remain as 'car thefts', or be amended to 'vehicle thefts'.'

CLARIFICATION Received on 04/06/2026 I would like my request to remain as 'car thefts' if possible.

- **Disclosed: Please see attached file FOI 22836 Car Theft Data.xlsx**

Please note that this data has been provided to the best of the ability of SP, subject to the limitation of current recording protocols and systems and software. Additional offences may have been recorded during these timescales. Furthermore, as there is no specific H.O. classification for vehicle theft, these figures are provided using a specific field employed by SP on their crime recording system. This system has a field to further breakdown thefts of vehicles to 'car thefts' and has been used to provide this data. However, this field is not a compulsory field for officers to complete and hence the data that has been provided by this search of the system will have returned highly inaccurate data.

Consequently, care should be taken in the interpretation and presentation of this data, 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.



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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