

4 June 2026

FOI Ref 22902

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

I am requesting the following information relating to Staffordshire Police's handling of Sarah's Law / Child Sex Offender Disclosure Scheme (CSODS) applications.

1. What percentage or ratio of Sarah's Law / CSODS applications submitted to Staffordshire Police result in:
 - "No Further Action"; or
 - No disclosure being made?
2. What percentage or ratio of Sarah's Law / CSODS applications submitted to Staffordshire Police result in an initial applicant interview being conducted within the expected 10-day timeframe outlined in national guidance or internal policy?
3. Over the past five years, how many Sarah's Law / CSODS applications handled by Staffordshire Police have involved:
 - another police force area;
 - a child residing outside Staffordshire; or
 - safeguarding coordination with another police force?
4. Of the multi-force applications identified above, how many resulted in:
 - formal notification to the relevant external police force;
 - a completed disclosure process;
 - no further action; or
 - transfer of responsibility to another force?
5. What policies, procedural documents, guidance documents, or internal operating procedures are currently used by Staffordshire Police in relation to:
 - Sarah's Law / CSODS applications;
 - inter-force coordination and notification;
 - disclosure decision-making;
 - safeguarding assessments; and
 - expected timescales for applicant contact, interview, and disclosure decisions?

6. Please provide any current written guidance or policy used by Staffordshire Police regarding the secure handling, transmission, and sharing of Sarah's Law / CSODS application information with external police forces or safeguarding agencies.

In addition, I appreciate the following questions may engage exemptions under the Freedom of Information Act. However, I would still ask that they are considered and either answered where possible, or formally exempted with the relevant exemption explained:

7. How many Sarah's Law / CSODS applications concerning ***** have been processed by Staffordshire Police between 2017 and present day?
8. On what date was Staffordshire Police first made aware of allegations, intelligence, reports, or investigations relating to ***** posing a risk to children?

SP received your request on 20/05/2026 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:

On 20th May 2020 Staffordshire Police implemented a new case management system. This system brought data from multiple legacy systems into one to provide a single nominal record, including the crime management system which is used to manage CSODS applications. There is no readily retrievable way to obtain the data sought in questions 1 to 4. A manual search of thousands of records would need to be done to establish if the records fit the criteria of the request, and then only in respect of questions 3 and 4. To achieve this task would exceed the 18-hour time and cost threshold stipulated by the FOI 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.

If you were to withdraw questions 1 to 4, then SP would be able to answer questions 5 and 6. However, questions 7 and 8 would attract a section 40(5) Personal Information exemption.

Be advised that 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