



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

5 June 2026

FOI Ref 22906

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

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I request the following information relating to girls and boys aged 16 and under who were homicide victims recorded by your force between 1 January 2018 and the most recent date available in 2026.

Please provide annual totals for:

1. Girls aged 16 and under killed, broken down by:
 - suspect sex (male/female/unknown)
 - relationship between victim and suspect, where recorded
 - broad cause or method of killing
2. Boys aged 16 and under killed, broken down by:
 - suspect sex (male/female/unknown)
 - relationship between victim and suspect, where recorded
 - broad cause or method of killing

For relationship categories, where recorded, please use broad groupings such as:

- Parent
- Step-parent
- Family member
- Acquaintance
- Stranger
- Unknown / not recorded

For cause/method categories, where recorded, please use broad groupings such as:

- Sharp instrument
- Blunt force
- Strangulation/suffocation
- Shooting
- Neglect
- Other
- Unknown

Please also separately identify:

- the number of girls aged 16 and under killed by a male suspect.

Where possible, please break down the figures for male and female child homicides into the following age groups:

- 0–5
- 6–13
- 14–16

I am requesting only statistical information, not personal data.



Clarification received on 21/05/2026:

Please see the further refined request below, as I had written child suicides when I meant "homicide."
Below is the correct refinement.

Just to clarify my earlier FOI request regarding homicide victims aged 16 and under.

If possible, please break down the figures by year into the following age groups for male and female homicides from 2018 to the present date.

- 0–5
- 6–13
- 14–16

Alternatively, if simpler for your systems, please provide the exact age of the victim at the time of death.

SP received your request on 21/05/2026 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.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I request the following information relating to girls and boys aged 16 and under who were homicide victims recorded by your force between 1 January 2018 and the most recent date available in 2026.

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- Other
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Please also separately identify:

- the number of girls aged 16 and under killed by a male suspect.

Where possible, please break down the figures for male and female child homicides into the following age groups:

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Alternatively, if simpler for your systems, please provide the exact age of the victim at the time of death.

Where possible, please break down the figures for male and female child homicides into the following age groups:

0–5

6–13

14–16 – **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 22906 Child Homicide Victims Data.xlsx'.**

Please note that there are offences that are still being investigated so with regard to these cases SP are citing Section 30(1)(a)(b) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Investigations conducted by Public Authorities.

The following exemption has been applied:

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

- Section 30(1)(a)(b) – Criminal Investigations

Section 30 is qualified and class based and, as such, we are required to apply the public interest test.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring disclosure under Section 30(1)(a)(b)

Disclosure of the information would improve the public's knowledge and understanding of the investigatory process and, as all police investigations are publicly funded, would show how public funds are being spent.

Factors favouring non-disclosure under Section 30(1)(a)(b)

Disclosure of the requested information would prejudice how investigations are carried out in the future. SP is charged with enforcing the law, preventing and detecting crime and protecting the communities SP serves. Any release of information relating to ongoing investigations could prejudice and undermine those investigations. The prevention and detection of such matters could therefore be hindered and risk interference with evidence, which could have detrimental impact on future investigations. In addition, the right to a fair trial could be undermined.

Balance test

Disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act is a release of information to the world in general and not an individual applicant. Having considered the public interest factors SP are required to determine whether on balance the factors favouring disclosure outweigh those which are against disclosure. It is SP's view that the factors favouring disclosure do not outweigh those which favour non-disclosure.

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 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, taking into account 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