

4 June 2026

FOI Ref 22916

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

Many thanks for your response to my FOI request. I'm writing to ask for clarification as to whether a reduced time period would make this request possible to complete within the FOI staff time allocation. I might suggest reframing my second question as follows:

2. How many cases have been dealt with under Police Led Partnerships, in total, from 2024 to 2025? Please also provide a breakdown of annual totals for each year within that period.

SP received your request on 26/05/2026 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.

- 2. How many cases have been dealt with under Police Led Partnerships, in total, from 2024 to 2025? Please also provide a breakdown of annual totals for each year within that period. – **Withheld, Section 24 and 31. Please see below.**

The following exemptions have been applied:

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

- Section 24 (1) – National Security

Section 24 is a qualified exemption and as such there is a requirement to articulate the harm and conduct a test of the public interest.

- Section 31 (1)(a)(b) Law Enforcement

Information is exempt from disclosure under section 31(1)(a)(b) where the release of Information would, or would be likely to, prejudice the prevention and detection of crime and/or the apprehension or prosecution of offenders. This exemption is qualified and prejudice-based and, as such, we are required to evidence the harm in disclosure and apply the public interest test.

Harm - Section 24 (1) and 31 (1):

Disclosure of the requested information would be likely to cause prejudice by revealing information about the scale and frequency of Police Led Partnerships connected to Prevent activity at a force level over time. Although the request seeks numerical totals only, the provision of cumulative and annual figures would enable trends, increases or decreases in activity to be identified. In the context of Prevent and counter terrorism safeguarding, such trend information is inherently sensitive.

There is a real and significant likelihood that this information, when combined with other material already available in the public domain, would contribute to a mosaic effect. This would allow informed individuals to draw inferences about policing focus, operational capacity, prioritisation and the intensity of safeguarding activity linked to counter terrorism functions. Those seeking to avoid police engagement or undermine Prevent activity could use this information to adapt their behaviour, delay engagement, or test perceived thresholds for intervention.

Prevent operates as part of the UK's wider counter terrorism framework under CONTEST and relies on early identification, confidential information sharing and effective multi agency cooperation. Disclosure of force level activity data over time would be likely to undermine the effectiveness of these arrangements by increasing understanding of how police led safeguarding is applied in practice. This would prejudice the prevention and detection of crime and, given the counter terrorism context, would also be likely to prejudice national security by reducing the effectiveness of protective policing measures designed to manage risk before it escalates into criminality.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring disclosure under Section 24 (1) and 31 (1):

Disclosure would promote transparency and accountability by demonstrating, at a high level, how Police Led Partnerships have been used by the force over time. It would contribute to public understanding of Prevent-related safeguarding activity and provide reassurance that mechanisms exist to identify and manage risk as part of policing's role in counter-terrorism and public protection.

Factors favouring non-disclosure under Section 24 (1) and 31 (1):

Prevent activity directly supports national security and the prevention and detection of crime by identifying and managing individuals vulnerable to radicalisation before criminal thresholds are reached. Disclosure of force-level cumulative and annual totals would enable analysis of trends and changes in activity, which could be used to infer operational focus, capability or effectiveness. This information could assist those seeking to avoid intervention or exploit safeguarding processes, thereby undermining law enforcement activity, damaging multi-agency working, and reducing the ability of policing and partners to protect vulnerable individuals and the public

Balance test

In balancing the public interest, while there is a recognised benefit in transparency and public understanding of policing and safeguarding activity, this is outweighed by the strong and enduring public interest in protecting national security and the effective functioning of law enforcement. Disclosure of force-level totals over time would be likely to cause harm by enabling inferences to be drawn about counter-terrorism safeguarding activity, operational emphasis and capacity. Given the sensitivity of Prevent activity and its direct connection to national security and the prevention of crime, the public interest favours maintaining the exemptions under sections 24(1) and 31(1).

Please 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 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