

22 June 2026

FOI Ref 22920

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

If not all questions can be answered within the time limit, please answer these questions in order until the time limit is reached.

1. On 1 April in the following years, how many stolen vehicle examiners were employed by the force either as police officers or civilian staff?

- i) 2016
- ii) 2022
- iii) 2023
- iv) 2024
- v) 2025
- vi) 2026

2. On 1 April in the following years, how many stolen vehicle examiners employed by your force either as police officer or civilian staff were recognised as "Qualified Stolen Vehicle Examiners" by the National Association of Stolen Vehicle Examiners (NASVE)?

- i) 2022
- ii) 2023
- iii) 2024
- iv) 2025
- v) 2026

3. On 26 May 2026 (or the nearest available date for which data is available), what was the average caseload of a "qualified stolen vehicle examiner" (as outlined in question 2) in your force?

4. On 26 May 2026 (or the nearest available date for which data is available), how many 'theft or unauthorised taking of motor vehicle' cases remained open.

5. Please provide any current Standard Operating Procedure/policy/checklist/decision tree/other internal guidance document that governs:

- i) investigation of the theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle
- ii) how investigators must handle CCTV/video enquiries in those investigations, including what to do when CCTV is not available
- iii) what material/information must be assembled before seeking a charging decision for the theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle

6. For cases relating to the theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle in the financial year 2025/26 in which an individual was charged, what was the average time, in days, between the reporting of the alleged crime and the individual(s) being charged

7. For cases relating to the theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle in the financial year 2025/26 in which the investigation was completed with no suspect identified, what was the average time, in days, between the reporting of the alleged crime and the investigation being closed?

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 some of the requested information.

1. On 1 April in the following years, how many stolen vehicle examiners were employed by the force either as police officers or civilian staff? – **Disclosed, please see below:**

- i) 2016 – **Disclosed, 1.**
- ii) 2022 – **Disclosed, nil.**
- iii) 2023 – **Disclosed, nil.**
- iv) 2024 – **Disclosed, nil.**
- v) 2025 – **Disclosed, nil.**
- vi) 2026 – **Disclosed, nil.**

2. On 1 April in the following years, how many stolen vehicle examiners employed by your force either as police officer or civilian staff were recognised as “Qualified Stolen Vehicle Examiners” by the National Association of Stolen Vehicle Examiners (NASVE)? – **Disclosed, please see below:**

- i) 2022 – **Disclosed, nil.**
- ii) 2023 – **Disclosed, nil.**
- iii) 2024 – **Disclosed, nil.**
- iv) 2025 – **Disclosed, nil.**
- v) 2026 – **Disclosed, nil.**

3. On 26 May 2026 (or the nearest available date for which data is available), what was the average caseload of a “qualified stolen vehicle examiner” (as outlined in question 2) in your force? – **No information held.**

4. On 26 May 2026 (or the nearest available date for which data is available), how many ‘theft or unauthorised taking of motor vehicle’ cases remained open. – **Disclosed, 270.**

Please be advised this data has been extracted from our Crime/Occurrence recording database where the offence has been recorded as ‘Theft of a motor vehicle’ or ‘Unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle’.

5. Please provide any current Standard Operating Procedure/policy/checklist/decision tree/other internal guidance document that governs:

- i) investigation of the theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle – **No information held.**
- ii) how investigators must handle CCTV/video enquiries in those investigations, including what to do when CCTV is not available – **No information held.**
- iii) what material/information must be assembled before seeking a charging decision for the theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle – **No information held.**



6. For cases relating to the theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle in the financial year 2025/26 in which an individual was charged, what was the average time, in days, between the reporting of the alleged crime and the individual(s) being charged – **No information held.**

7. For cases relating to the theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle in the financial year 2025/26 in which the investigation was completed with no suspect identified, what was the average time, in days, between the reporting of the alleged crime and the investigation being closed? – **No information held.**

This data has been provided to the best of the ability of SP, subject to the limitation of current recording protocols and systems/software. Additional offences may have been recorded during these timescales but are awaiting finalisation and input onto these systems and would not be present within this dataset.

Every effort is made to ensure that the data presented is accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that this has been extracted from multiple sources, developed for specific policing purposes, for which data extraction methods have not been specifically designed to directly correlate with the terminology of this request. Therefore, the data presented is subject to the inaccuracies and idiosyncrasies inherent in any large-scale recording system.

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.

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



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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