

8 June 2026

FOI Ref 22950

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

I'm requesting data on children under 18 who have had a Taser fired at them (meaning the probes were deployed) by officers at your police force between 1 January 2016 and 31 December 2025.

Please provide the following, broken down by calendar year in a table:

1. The total number of children under 18 who had a Taser fired at them in each year.
2. The child's self-defined ethnicity (White, Black, Asian, Mixed, Other, or Not Stated).
3. The total number of incidents where the child was aged 10 or under, and the total aged 11 to 17.
4. The recorded reason the Taser was fired (for example: serious or aggravated resistance, aggressive resistance, active resistance).
5. Whether the child was found to be carrying a weapon, and if so what type.
6. Whether the child sustained an injury, and if so what type.

On points 2 and 3: Looking at previous FOI's I know some forces have declined to provide ethnicity and age data on the grounds it could identify a child.

To be clear, I'm only asking for aggregate totals, not individual records.

That's not personal data under section 3(2) of the Data Protection Act 2018, and it wouldn't meet the ICO's motivated intruder test for identification. Several other forces have already provided exactly this, and I'm happy to share examples of how they've done it.

If complete records aren't held for the full period, please provide whatever is held within the date range.

If the full request would exceed the Section 12 cost limit, please prioritise points 1 and 2. Everything else can be dropped if needed.

It'd be great to get a response within the statutory 20 working days.

SP received your request on 03/06/2026 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'm requesting data on children under 18 who have had a Taser fired at them (meaning the probes were deployed) by officers at your police force between 1 January 2016 and 31 December 2025.

Please provide the following, broken down by calendar year in a table:

1. The total number of children under 18 who had a Taser fired at them in each year. – **Disclosed, 1.**
2. The child's self-defined ethnicity (White, Black, Asian, Mixed, Other, or Not Stated). – **Withheld, section 40.**
3. The total number of incidents where the child was aged 10 or under, and the total aged 11 to 17. – **Withheld, section 40.**
4. The recorded reason the Taser was fired (for example: serious or aggravated resistance, aggressive resistance, active resistance). – **Withheld, section 40.**
5. Whether the child was found to be carrying a weapon, and if so what type. – **Withheld, section 40.**
6. Whether the child sustained an injury, and if so what type. – **Withheld, section 40.**

Please be advised this data has been extracted from our Crime/Occurrence recording system following a manual review to identify where a taser was discharged involving individuals under the age of 18.

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 this request.

- **Section 40(2) Personal Information**

Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption which means that there is no need to quantify the harm that may arise from the disclosure; neither is it subject to a public interest test.

To release personal or third-party information held by SP, would breach the data protection principles; namely –

- Data is lawfully and fairly processed.
- Processed in line with an individual's rights.
- Data is secure.

Personal and third-party information cannot be released under the Freedom of Information Act.

Disclosure under Freedom of Information is a release of information to the world in general and not an individual applicant.

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 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, 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