

17 June 2026

FOI Ref 22954

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

Please provide copies of the Independent Advisory Group (IAG) meeting minutes for Staffordshire Police for the period January 2021 to present. If full minutes cannot be disclosed, please provide redacted versions or a schedule of meeting dates and published summaries.

Please include:

Minutes (or redacted minutes) for each IAG meeting since January 2021.

Any published summaries or action logs arising from those meetings.

The IAG terms of reference and the most recent membership list.

If any of these records are not held or are exempt, please state the exemption(s) applied and provide the reasoning.

Clarification received from applicant 08/06/2026:

Please refine my request to one year, for the calendar year 2024.

SP received your request on 04/06/2026 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.

Please provide copies of the Independent Advisory Group (IAG) meeting minutes for Staffordshire Police for the period January 2021 to present. If full minutes cannot be disclosed, please provide redacted versions or a schedule of meeting dates and published summaries.- **Partially disclosed, as agreed this data is for 2024 only.**

Please include:

- Minutes (or redacted minutes) for each IAG meeting since January 2021. – **No information held.**
- Any published summaries or action logs arising from those meetings.- **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 22954 Notes 13.07.24' and 'FOI 22954 Notes 08.06.24'.**

Staffordshire Police do not hold any recorded minutes, the disclosed documents are notes made during the meetings. The above data has been partially exempt under Sections 24, 31 and 40.



- The IAG terms of reference and the most recent membership list. - **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 22954 Member Handbook' which contains the terms of reference. The membership list has been withheld under section 40.**

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 parts of 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 S31(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.

- 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.

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

Releasing detailed discussions relating to policing activity, community tensions, and in some cases matters connected to safeguarding, prevent, and counter-terrorism concerns, would prejudice the prevention and detection of crime and or the apprehension or prosecution of offenders. Although not all information within the notes provided are sensitive, disclosure of detailed content would enable patterns, themes and areas of focus to be identified over time. This creates a real and significant risk whereby seemingly low-level information when combined with material already in the public domain, could provide insight into policing priorities operational approaches, and areas of concern. This is known as the mosaic effect.

Public Interest Test

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

Disclosure would promote transparency and accountability by providing insight into the role and function of Independent Advisory Groups and how they support policing. It would improve public understanding of how community perspectives are considered in decision-making and how police engage with diverse communities on sensitive issues. There is a clear public interest in demonstrating that policing activity is subject to independent scrutiny and that community voices are heard, particularly in areas such as equality, community impact, and safeguarding.

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

IAG notes frequently include discussions on sensitive matters, including community tensions, policing tactics and safeguarding activity. Disclosure of such material would risk revealing insight into policing strategies, concerns, and operational responses. This could undermine trust between police and independent advisors, reducing the openness and effectiveness of future discussions and discourage full and frank contributions from IAG members. It may also, reveal sensitive community information or concerns that could be exploited and provide intelligence that could be used to avoid detection or interfere with policing activity. In the context of Prevent and wider safeguarding functions, disclosure could also enable individuals to better understand how and when intervention occurs.

Balance test

When considering whether disclosure is appropriate, we must weigh the strongest reason for disclosure against the strongest reasons for non-disclosure. In this case, whilst the factors favouring disclosure are important in that it would adhere to the basic principle of being open and transparent, SP believe when weighed against the risk of disclosure undermining the ability of SP to prevent and detect crime and hinder efforts to protect the public, then non-disclosure takes precedence.

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:



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

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