

22 June 2026

FOI Ref 22973

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

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request the following information relating to recorded residential burglaries in your policing area for the calendar year 2025.

1. Time of occurrence

Please provide the number of residential burglaries broken down by the recorded time of occurrence.

Where exact times are not available, please provide the data by the following time bands:

- 00:00-05:59
- 06:00-11:59
- 12:00-17:59
- 18:00-23:59

Where offences are recorded using an occurrence window rather than an exact time, please provide the data using the occurrence time bands or methodology used internally by your police force.

2. Method of entry

Please provide a breakdown of recorded residential burglaries by method of entry, including any categories recorded by your police force such as:

- Forced front door
- Forced rear door
- Forced patio/French doors
- Forced window
- Unlocked door or window
- Garage
- Key theft
- Other
- Unknown

If different categories are used internally, please provide the data using those categories.

3. Occupancy status

Please provide a breakdown of recorded residential burglaries according to whether the property was:

- Occupied at the time of the offence
- Unoccupied at the time of the offence
- Unknown

If occupancy status is recorded using different classifications, please provide the data using the classifications held by your police force.

If any of the above requested information is not routinely published, please provide the data in the format in which it is held.

SP received your request on 08/06/2026 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

SP's response to your enquiry is as follows:

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

The following exemption has been applied:

- Section 12(1) where the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit. Section 12(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the prescribed limit'.

The above information has been withheld for the following reasons:

There is no method by which SP can readily retrieve information from our systems to answer this request.

In relation to the request, there are over 3,500 offences of residential burglary that were recorded by SP, within the requested period. Whilst markers are available for officers to use when inputting the crime information onto the systems, the use of these markers is not obligatory. A search of the system using the markers to answer questions 2 and 3 provided a negligible number that is of no statistical significance. Thus, there is no readily retrievable method of obtaining the required information with which to answer these questions.

It would require a manual review of each occurrence to obtain the requested data, which would be a very labour-intensive process. From dip sampling, it has been estimated that it would take approximately 5 minutes to review each record, this would equate to over 290 hours. To achieve this task would therefore exceed the 18-hour time and cost threshold of the Freedom of Information Act, by a considerable margin.

Advice and assistance

Section 16 of the Act places an obligation upon the Authority to provide advice and assistance, to comply with this obligation please see below.

In relation to question 1, SP can provide the number of residential burglaries broken down by the recorded 'start time' of occurrence. This could be provided as hourly time bands for the 24-hour period.

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.



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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 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