

12 June 2026

FOI Ref 22979

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

In the previous 12 months from 06/06/2026 what were the total fuel and labour costs (pilots, police officers onboard) of NPAS (helicopter and plane) involvement in operations conducted to tackle so called "nuisance bikers" and how many of these operations were conducted.

In these operations how many successful convictions, not arrests, but successful court convictions were there.

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 part of this request. Although there have been operations and arrests relating to this topic, only the arrest records logged by road policing officers are easily retrievable on the system used to service this request. Where the arrests were not made by road policing officers or where the custody officer may have recorded the transporting officers as the arresting officer, it's not possible to cross reference the names with custody records for that day and therefore, there is no linked crime/arrest record.

For the records that cannot be positively traced, a manual review would have to be carried out of every single arrest made on the dates in question to find one that, from description alone, may be relevant to these specific operations and then a review of the full case file to include or exclude it. It has been estimated that each individual review would take approximately 15 minutes and there is an average of 78 arrests a day in-force which would translate to around 19.5 hours of work per day to review. There are 4 days that would need reviewing therefore a total of 78 hours work. To achieve this task would therefore exceed the 18-hour time and cost threshold of the Freedom of Information Act by a considerable margin.



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

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 order to refine your request, data can be provided for the total number of operations in relation to this request, however, please note that not all of them will have involved NPAS. Data can also be provided for the total number of arrests and the disposals for each one that have been recorded by road policing officers only. Data can be provided for the total number of traffic offence reports and bike seizures in relation to these operations in the time period requested.

There is no information held with regards to fuel and labour costs in relation to these NPAS operations and there is also no information held with regards to convictions, please see advice and assistance below.

Please be advised that SP do not refer to 'nuisance bikers' and an individual cannot be convicted of 'nuisance biking'. The operations carried out are primarily a roads policing/road safety operation, therefore arrests are not the main focus for any value or impact assessment that SP use in-house. Rather the road policing team focus on positive process i.e. traffic offence reports ('tickets') and vehicle seizures, which all count in the same positive outcome as a 'conviction' resulting in either points and fine or offer of courses etc.

Staffordshire Police do not hold conviction data. We would advise that you approach the Government HM Courts & Tribunals service website.

Please find below links to previously disclosed HMCTS data and details upon how to submit a further Freedom of Information request to the Government HM Courts and Tribunals Service for this information. Make an FOI request - [how to make a request](#).

Check our previous releases to see if we've already answered your question - [our previous releases](#)

Make a new request by using the details below.

FOI requests

Disclosure Team

Postal Point 10.38, Floor 10

102 Petty France

London

SW1H 9AJ

United Kingdom

Email

data.access@justice.gov.uk

All Freedom of Information request responses are published on the SP website although personal details are not included.



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

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, 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