



23 June 2026

FOI Ref 23025

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

For the period 1 January 2020 to the date of this request, I would be grateful if you could provide the following information.

**1. Animal Welfare and Dog-Related Policing**

Please confirm whether your force has any of the following, and if so, the department or unit responsible:

- Dog Legislation Officer(s);
- Dangerous Dogs Officer(s) or Team;
- Rural Crime Team with responsibility for dog welfare matters;
- Animal Welfare Officer(s) or equivalent role.

**2. Reporting Routes**

Please provide details of the appropriate reporting routes used by members of the public for:

- Dog theft;
- Dangerous dogs;
- Suspected animal cruelty or welfare concerns;
- Illegal dog breeding;
- Concerns regarding dog rescue organisations;
- Failure to report, transfer or lawfully deal with stray dogs.

**3. Recorded Incidents**

Please state whether your force has recorded any incidents, crimes, reports, occurrences, investigations or intelligence relating to:

- Max and George Trust;
- Max & George Trust;
- Max and George Dog Rescue;
- Any other substantially similar name used by the organisation.

If information is held, please provide:

- The total number of records held;
- A yearly breakdown from 2020 onwards;
- A broad category for each record where available (for example: animal welfare, dangerous dogs, theft, fraud, harassment, malicious communications, stray dogs, public order, or other recorded category).

I am not seeking personal data, operational details, intelligence content, investigation material or information that would identify individuals.

**4. Agency Referrals**

Please confirm whether your force has made or received referrals, notifications or information-sharing communications relating to the above organisation(s) with any of the following agencies:

- RSPCA;
- Local Authorities or Councils;
- Trading Standards;
- Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA);



- Crown Prosecution Service (CPS);
- Social Services.

Where possible, please provide the number of referrals by year and the agency involved.

SP received your request on 18/06/2026 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 parts of this request. For the time period requested, there have been in excess of 3,900 animal related incidents. To ascertain whether the incident related to specific organisations such as the 'Max and George Trust' and also to establish whether SP made or received any referrals to the listed agencies regarding these incidents, the record for each one would require a manual review. To extract this data would therefore require a very labour-intensive manual trawl through each record.

From dip sampling, it has been estimated that it would take approximately 4 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to over 240 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.

If you were to refine your request, data can be provided for questions 1 and 2 if questions 3 and 4 were withdrawn.

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](mailto: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