

5 March 2026

FOI Ref 22430

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

Please send me a list of the titles of all tactical assessments and operation reports (post-action) produced or commissioned by your force on the following crime areas from January 1, 2021, to the date of this request:

- Domestic abuse; Modern slavery; Drug crime; Serious and organised crime; Anti-social behaviour; Youth crime; Hate crime.

SP received your request on 21/01/2026 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.

- Please send me a list of the titles of all tactical assessments and operation reports (post-action) produced or commissioned by your force on the following crime areas from January 1, 2021, to the date of this request:
Domestic abuse; Modern slavery; Drug crime; Serious and organised crime; Anti-social behaviour; Youth crime; Hate crime. – **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 22430 Force Assessments and Operations Data.xlsx'.**

Please be advised that the attached data are the tactical assessments and operation titles that are held by SP in list form.

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 parts of this particular request.

- 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 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.

Harm:

Searches have been conducted, and SP can confirm that information relevant to this request is held. However, some of the information is exempt from disclosure under s31(1)(a)(b) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Although only the titles of tactical assessments and post operation reports have been requested, disclosure of certain titles would reveal aspects of SP's operational focus, priorities, deployment decisions, and the nature of activity undertaken in the crime areas listed. This information is not publicly available and releasing it would be likely to allow individuals or groups to infer how and where the force directs its operational capabilities. This would create a real risk of prejudicing the prevention and detection of crime and the apprehension or prosecution of offenders.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring disclosure under Section 31(1)(a)(b)

There is a public interest in transparency and accountability regarding how the police approach different types of crime. Disclosure of information can help the public understand how the force assesses issues such as domestic abuse, modern slavery, drug crime, and other priority areas. Making information available also assists public debate on policing strategy and how the force allocates resources to address these crime types.

Factors favouring non-disclosure under Section 31(1)(a)(b)

There is a significant public interest in ensuring that operational policing activity is not undermined. Releasing certain document titles would reveal aspects of the force's operational focus, deployment decisions, or specific activity undertaken in sensitive crime areas. This would risk enabling individuals or groups intent on criminal activity to alter their behaviour to avoid detection or exploit perceived gaps in policing. Protecting the effectiveness of operational tactics is essential to ensure that the force can continue to prevent and detect crime, and apprehend offenders, without its capability being compromised.

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, we believe when weighed against the risk of disclosure undermining our ability to prevent and detect crime and hindering our ability 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:



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

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, 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