



4 March 2026

FOI Ref 22516

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

I am kindly requesting the following:

1. I am requesting any force level policies or guidance around the policing response to technology-facilitated abuse/technology-facilitated violence and abuse.
2. Any TecSAFE data (if adopted in this force) from the last 5 years in relation to prevalence of use and types of offences recorded (specifically interested in the tech-related incidents)

SP received your request on 11/02/2026 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

SP's response to your enquiry is as follows:

SP holds/does not hold the requested information.

- 1. I am requesting any force level policies or guidance around the policing response to technology-facilitated abuse/technology-facilitated violence and abuse. – **Withheld.**
- 2. Any TecSAFE data (if adopted in this force) from the last 5 years in relation to prevalence of use and types of offences recorded (specifically interested in the tech-related incidents) – **No information held.**

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 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:

The current technology-based abuse officer guidance contains detailed information on the various uses and tactics employed by officers in order to detect and apprehend offenders. Disclosure of the requested information would therefore place information into the public domain that would undermine operational policing by exposing police tactics and jeopardising existing or future investigations. It would allow those

with ill intent to speak with a level of authority on this subject to cause disruption to operational policing and prejudice the prevention and detection of crime. The information contained within the guidance is vital for police officers to conduct duties and pursue investigations and detect crime and also enables the criminal justice process to ensure that offenders are apprehended and prosecuted in order to protect the public.

Public Interest Test

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

To disclose this information would adhere to the basic principle of being open and transparent, it would also lead to a better public awareness of the workings of the police force and the communications used with operations and during routine policing.

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

Releasing such data would give those individuals with the intent to do so, the intelligence required to disrupt police activity, or take evasive measures to circumvent any such tactics identified. This knowledge would allow those with ill intent to target their offending more effectively or take measures to avoid detection which would inevitably lead to an increased likelihood of criminal activity and a greater danger being posed to the public. Any disclosure of information which is likely to undermine the ability to serve the public in preventing and detecting crime can only be considered as being harmful to the public.

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 posing a heightened risk to 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



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

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