

17 March 2026

FOI Ref 22551

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

I am seeking recorded data relating to coercive control offences under Section 76 of the Serious Crime Act 2015 (Coercive or controlling behaviour in an intimate or family relationship) for the period from 2015 to 2025.

For each calendar year listed below, please provide the following information, separated by sex (Male / Female / Unknown if applicable):

1. Total number of reports of coercive control (as defined under Section 76 of the Serious Crime Act 2015), by sex.
2. Total number of charges for coercive control, by sex.
3. Total number of charges where coercive control was the only charge (i.e., not accompanied by any other offence), by sex.

Please supply data for the following years:

2015  
2016  
2017  
2018  
2019  
2020  
2021  
2022  
2023  
2024  
2025

If you are unable to provide data that exactly matches the categories above due to recording or coding practices, please:

- a) Provide the closest available dataset, and explain any differences in how the figures are defined or collected; and
- b) Explain any year(s) for which data is not held.

Where possible, please provide the data in CSV or Excel format.

For the purposes of this request, “coercive control” refers to the offence outlined in Section 76 of the Serious Crime Act 2015:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/9/section/76>

SP received your request on 18/02/2026 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 question 3 of this request. From 2021 alone there have been 431 custody records with at least one ‘Engage in controlling/coercive behaviour in an intimate/family relationship’ offence and at least one charge (regardless of offence) linked to the record. In order to ascertain the total number of charges where coercive control was the only charge (i.e., not accompanied by any other offence), 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 5 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to over 35 hours. To achieve this task would therefore exceed the 18-hour time and cost threshold of the FOI 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 order to refine your request, data can be provided for questions 1 and 2 if question 3 were removed. This can be broken down by year from 2016 to 2025 and by gender if you were to clarify whether you require gender for the suspect/offender or victim. Please be advised that further exemptions may be applied.

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](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