

3 March 2026

FOI Ref 22579

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

Thank you very much for providing the information I requested.

For the same request, would it be possible to also receive the information covering the remainder of 2025?

SP received your request on 23/02/2026 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.

- Thank you very much for providing the information I requested.
- For the same request, would it be possible to also receive the information covering the remainder of 2025? – **Withheld, please see the below exemption. There are no further cases with outcomes between 18th November 2025 and 31st December 2025 as these cases are still ongoing.**

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)(g) Law Enforcement by virtue of (2)(b) for the purposes of ascertaining whether any person is responsible for any conduct which is improper.

Section 31 is a qualified, prejudiced-based exemption and there is a requirement to provide evidence of harm and conduct a public interest test.

Harm:

To release details of cases which are currently ongoing could potentially undermine them. It is important that public authorities are allowed to fully investigate any allegations of improper conduct without fear of any speculation entering the public domain and undermining the investigation. SP is accountable in ensuring that any conduct matters are investigated and dealt with thoroughly and fairly.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring disclosure under Section 31(1)(g)

There is a general public interest in disclosure and openness concerning police misconduct matters. There is a public interest in giving assurance to the public that effective arrangements are in place for preventing and detecting improper conduct.

Factors favouring non-disclosure under Section 31(1)(g)

Investigations into any breach of standards of professional behaviour rely upon the willing participation and cooperation of people in the investigation process. The effectiveness of the investigation process is maintained by the understanding among those who participate in it that any information which they provide about the circumstances surrounding any breach of standards of professional behaviour is kept in confidence, unless there is a lawful reason to do otherwise. It is vital that participants provide their information freely and openly and, in an environment, where they can trust that their information will not be prematurely disclosed, or released simply upon request.

If participants did not trust that their information would be kept in confidence then it would deter them from cooperating with investigations. This would be likely to prejudice the exercise of SP's function in investigating allegations of misconduct and, it follows, would undermine its maintenance of the various legal requirements about confidentiality of information. The value of investigations, such as those which are conducted into alleged breaches of standards of professional behaviour, rely on discretion, full cooperation and frankness from individuals involved.

Any release of information relating to ongoing investigations could prejudice and undermine those investigations. In addition, the right to a fair trial could be undermined.

Balance test

SP take all matters of misconduct very seriously and thoroughly investigate all instances reported to allow appropriate and proportionate punishment to be enforced or any parties to be identified and exonerated. Although the assurances that release of this information would provide are important, it is of paramount importance that the integrity of these investigations are not jeopardised. Release of any information that may interfere or prejudice investigations of this kind would not be undertaken. Therefore, on balance it is our opinion that the factors supporting release of this information are outweighed by those opposing and this information will not be released.

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

Or by Post to:



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

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