

13 March 2026

FOI Ref 22595

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

As a freedom of information request, for the period 1 January 2022 to the present, please provide:

- 1) The number of occasions on which CCTV systems in custody suites were recorded as:
 - non-operational,
 - not recording,
 - partially operational (e.g. individual cameras offline), or
 - otherwise unable to capture or retain footage, due to technical fault, maintenance, upgrade, power failure, storage failure or any other reason.
- 2) For each such occasion, please provide:
 - a) The custody suite concerned
 - b) The date of the outage
 - c) The recorded start and end time of the period during which CCTV recording was not fully operational
 - d) Where start and/or end times are not held, the earliest and latest recorded timestamps evidencing the outage
 - e) The nature of the fault or reason for non-operation

For clarity, this request concerns records of system operational status, outages, maintenance and compliance. It does not seek disclosure of any CCTV footage, camera locations, or technical specifications that would identify security-sensitive details.

If the requested breakdown would exceed the appropriate cost limit, please advise how the request may be refined. In that event, I would be content initially to receive summary totals of outage incidents and cumulative downtime by custody suite for the most recent 12-month period.

SP received your request on 27/02/2026 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.

As a freedom of information request, for the period 1 January 2022 to the present, please provide:

- 1) The number of occasions on which CCTV systems in custody suites were recorded as:
 - non-operational,
 - not recording,
 - partially operational (e.g. individual cameras offline), or
 - otherwise unable to capture or retain footage, due to technical fault, maintenance, upgrade, power failure, storage failure or any other reason. – **Partially disclosed, nil.**

Please be advised that system log data from Northern Area Custody Facility is only held from 16/12/2025, and system log data from Watling Custody Facility is only held for 30 days.

- 2) For each such occasion, please provide:
 - a) The custody suite concerned
 - b) The date of the outage
 - c) The recorded start and end time of the period during which CCTV recording was not fully operational
 - d) Where start and/or end times are not held, the earliest and latest recorded timestamps evidencing the outage
 - e) The nature of the fault or reason for non-operation – **Not applicable.**

Please note that this data has been provided to the best of the ability of SP, subject to the limitation of current recording protocols and systems/software.

Every effort is made to ensure that the data presented is accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that this has been extracted from multiple sources, developed for specific policing purposes, for which data extraction methods have not been specifically designed to directly correlate with the terminology of this request. Therefore, the data presented is subject to the inaccuracies and idiosyncrasies inherent in any large-scale recording system.

Consequently, care should be taken in the interpretation and presentation of this data, to not misrepresent the whole or any part of the data disclosed.

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:

Information Access Team
Staffordshire Police HQ
PO Box 3167
Stafford
ST16 9JZ



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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 SP 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 twenty working days. In more complex cases the review may take up to forty 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