

3 March 2026

FOI Ref 22598

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

Please could you provide me with the following information for the current full year of data you have available (e.g 2025) and the previous year, for example: 2024 - 2025.

1. How many instances of offences were reported to the police force that included the name of the gaming platform "Roblox".

a. A breakdown of the type of offence i.e. "Sexual Activity Involving A Child Under 13", "Sexual Activity Involving A Child Under 16", "Sexual grooming", "Engage in sexual communication with a child", "Social extortion or 'sextortion'."

2) Please can you also provide a redacted copy of the free text crime reports for these offences recorded by your force for the most recent year available - for example between January 2025 and January 2025.

3) Provide a specific age breakdown for each of these offences towards whom crime was purported

a) and where under-16s, are mentioned, please could you highlight specifically the ages of the teenagers impacted by subsequent offence. E.g 10 years of age, 11 years of ages, 12 years of age etc

Clarification received on 02/03/2026:

For Q2, please could you provide the free-text crime reports for the period January 2025 - January 2026

For Q3, please could you provide an age breakdown for both victim and suspect/offender.

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 the requested information.

Please could you provide me with the following information for the current full year of data you have available (e.g 2025) and the previous year, for example: 2024 - 2025.

- 1. How many instances of offences were reported to the police force that included the name of the gaming platform "Roblox". – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 22598 Roblox Crimes Data.xlsx'.**
- a. A breakdown of the type of offence i.e. "Sexual Activity Involving A Child Under 13", "Sexual Activity Involving A Child Under 16", "Sexual grooming", "Engage in sexual communication with a child", "Social extortion or 'sextortion'." – **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 22598 Roblox Crimes Data.xlsx'.**
- 2) Please can you also provide a redacted copy of the free text crime reports for these offences recorded by your force for the most recent year available - for example between January 2025 and

January 2025. – **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 22598 Roblox Crimes Data.xlsx'.**

- 3) Provide a specific age breakdown for each of these offences towards whom crime was purported a) and where under-16s, are mentioned, please could you highlight specifically the ages of the teenagers impacted by subsequent offence. E.g 10 years of age, 11 years of ages, 12 years of age etc – **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 22598 Roblox Crimes Data.xlsx'.**

Please note that this data was obtained by completing a summary search for the term “Roblox” within our crime/occurrence recording system for the years 2024 and 2025. The reliability of these searches cannot be guaranteed as only the MO / summary field of the report is searched. If this term is mentioned elsewhere (i.e. within the call log, crime report, statements etc) these will not be returned in the results. Additionally, if the term is misspelt within the MO / summary field, this will not be returned.

Please note that there are 2 offences that are still being investigated so with regard to these cases we are citing Section 30(1)(a)(b) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Investigations conducted by Public Authorities.

The following exemptions have 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 30(1)(a)(b) – Criminal Investigations

Section 30 is qualified and class based and, as such, we are required to apply the public interest test.

- Section 40(2) Personal Information

Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption which means that there is no need to quantify the harm that may arise from the disclosure; neither is it subject to a public interest test.

To release personal or third-party information held by SP, would breach the data protection principles; namely –

- Data is lawfully and fairly processed.
- Processed in line with an individual's rights.
- Data is secure.

Personal and third-party information cannot be released under the Freedom of Information Act.

Disclosure under Freedom of Information is a release of information to the world in general and not an individual applicant.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring disclosure under Section 30(1)(a)(b)

Disclosure of the information would improve the public's knowledge and understanding of the investigatory process and, as all police investigations are publicly funded, would show how public funds are being spent.

Factors favouring non-disclosure under Section 30(1)(a)(b)

Disclosure of the requested information would prejudice how investigations are carried out in the future. SP is charged with enforcing the law, preventing and detecting crime and protecting the communities we serve. Any release of information relating to ongoing investigations could prejudice and undermine those investigations. The prevention and detection of such matters could therefore be hindered and therefore risk interference with evidence, which could have detrimental impact on future investigations. In addition, the right to a fair trial could be undermined.

Balance test

Disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act is a release of information to the world in general and not an individual applicant. Having considered the public interest factors we are required to determine whether on balance the factors favouring disclosure outweigh those which are against disclosure. It is our view that the factors favouring disclosure do not outweigh those which favour non-disclosure.

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

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.



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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