

17 March 2026

FOI Ref 22621

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

Original Request (FOI 22430):

Please send me a list of the titles of all tactical assessments and operation reports (post-action) produced or commissioned by your force on the following crime areas from January 1, 2021, to the date of this request:

- Domestic abuse; Modern slavery; Drug crime; Serious and organised crime; Anti-social behaviour; Youth crime; Hate crime.

Refined Request:

Would it be possible to please share as many of the reports listed in your response to me (as pdfs)? I believe some of them should be disclosed, even if it means redaction.

SP received your request on 06/03/2026 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 14(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the request is vexatious.

SP are not providing the information you have requested as SP have determined that your request is vexatious under Section 14(1) Vexatious Requests.

The Information Commissioner's guidance on the subject makes it clear that Section 14(1) may be applied where a request, or its impact on a public authority, cannot be justified.

The key question to consider is whether the request is likely to cause a disproportionate or unjustified level of disruption, irritation or distress based on the impact of the authority, weighed against any evidence about the purpose and value of the request. SP are also entitled to consider the context and history of the request where it is relevant.

SP is treating this request as vexatious because to provide the requested data will cause an unjustified and disproportionate burden on the force. The request is seeking a substantial volume of information and SP have real concerns about potentially exempt information within these reports and assessments.

Furthermore, SP cannot easily isolate any potentially exempt information because it is scattered throughout the requested material, adding to the burdensome nature of the request.

Within the reports and assessments requested, there are more than 750 pages which would need to be read, evaluated and redacted and then, to ensure that there would be no data breach, each of the documents would need to be checked by a separate staff member. Many of these pages are highly detailed, compounding the already burdensome nature of the request. It has been estimated that it would take between 5 and 30 minutes to review each page relevant to the request, and a further 5 to 30 minutes per page to consider exemptions and apply redactions to this information in order to avoid the disclosure of sensitive information into the public domain. This would, therefore, take between 125 and 750 hours. To conduct this work would prove a significant burden on the department and would detract from our ability to respond to other requesters.

For the above reasons, we have therefore concluded that your request is vexatious within the terms of Section 14(1) of the Act and we will not be servicing the request.

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.

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