

17 March 2026

FOI Ref 22627

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

Could I please refine the request to adhere to your advice: In order to refine your request, data can be provided for questions 1, 2, 4 and 5 in full if question 3 is removed.
Please remove Q3.

Original request

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide the following information for the years 2023, 2024 and 2025:

1. The number of recorded offences and/or arrests relating to:

- a) Soliciting for the purposes of prostitution
- b) Keeping or managing a brothel
- c) Controlling prostitution for gain
- d) Paying for sexual services

Please break this down by year.

2. Of the individuals identified in relation to soliciting prostitution offences, how many were recorded as:

- a) Potential victims of human trafficking or modern slavery
- b) Vulnerable adults
- c) Referred to safeguarding services

Please break this down by year.

3. The number of recorded crimes where the victim was identified as a sex worker, broken down by offence type (e.g. sexual assault, rape, robbery, assault). Please break this down by year.

4. The number of investigations relating to controlling prostitution for gain that resulted in:

- a) Charges
- b) No further action

5. Where possible, could you also identify the top five streets and areas where arrests have been made in relation to soliciting sex work?

Please provide all the data broken down by year and, where possible, in spreadsheet format.

SP received your request on 09/03/2026 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.

- Could I please refine the request to adhere to your advice: In order to refine your request, data can be provided for questions 1, 2, 4 and 5 in full if question 3 is removed.
- Please remove Q3.



- Original request
- Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide the following information for the years 2023, 2024 and 2025:
 - 1. The number of recorded offences and/or arrests relating to:
 - a) Soliciting for the purposes of prostitution
 - b) Keeping or managing a brothel
 - c) Controlling prostitution for gain
 - d) Paying for sexual servicesPlease break this down by year. – **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 22627 Refinement of FOI 22559 Prostitution Offences Data'. Please see the below exemption.**
 - 2. Of the individuals identified in relation to soliciting prostitution offences, how many were recorded as:
 - a) Potential victims of human trafficking or modern slavery
 - b) Vulnerable adults
 - c) Referred to safeguarding servicesPlease break this down by year. – **Partially disclosed, nil for a, b and c for all years. Please see the below exemption.**
 - 3. The number of recorded crimes where the victim was identified as a sex worker, broken down by offence type (e.g. sexual assault, rape, robbery, assault). Please break this down by year.
– **Question withdrawn.**
 - 4. The number of investigations relating to controlling prostitution for gain that resulted in:
 - a) Charges
 - b) No further action– **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 22627 Refinement of FOI 22559 Prostitution Offences Data'. Please see the below exemption.**
 - 5. Where possible, could you also identify the top five streets and areas where arrests have been made in relation to soliciting sex work?
– **Partially disclosed, nil arrests for 'Soliciting another for the purpose of obtaining their sexual services as a prostitute in a street or public place' in all three years. Please see the below exemption.**Please provide all the data broken down by year and, where possible, in spreadsheet format.

Please be advised that with regards to question 1 the total number of offences and arrests do not necessarily correlate as there may have been multiple people arrested per offence or alternatively an individual may have been arrested for the listed arrest reasons above however the actual recorded offence may be different.

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. Additional offences/arrests may have been recorded during these timescales but are awaiting finalisation and input onto these systems and would not be present within this dataset.

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.

Please note that there are a number of 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. These have not been included in the dataset.

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 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.

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.



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

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 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