

27 March 2026

FOI Ref 22705

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

I am submitting a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding dogs seized under Section 1 of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991.

This request relates specifically to dogs seized on suspicion of being a prohibited type, not to those involved in offences under Section 3.

Please provide the following information for the period 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2025, or the most recent 5-year period available.

If providing 5 years of data would exceed the cost limit, please provide the same information for the most recent 3-year period instead.

1. Seizures and Outcomes

- a) The total number of dogs seized under Section 1
- b) Of those seized, the number:
 - i - Disclaimed by the owner
 - ii - Returned to the owner as not being of a prohibited type
 - iii - Subject to a Contingent Destruction Order and added to the Index of Exempted Dogs
 - iv - Ordered to be euthanised by the court

2. Timeframes

- a) The average time between seizure and formal assessment/typing decision
- b) The average time between seizure and final outcome (e.g. return, exemption, or destruction)
- c) Where available, the average time between seizure and return for dogs found not to be of a prohibited type

3. Kennelling and Costs

- a) The average cost per dog per day for kennelling
- b) The average length of stay in kennels for dogs seized under Section 1
- c) If available, the total annual cost of kennelling for Section 1 dogs

4. Additional Context (if recorded)

- a) Where recorded, the number of Section 1 seized dogs with a prior recorded incident of aggression towards a person

5. Clarification

If it is not possible to separate Section 1 data from other Dangerous Dogs Act data, please provide the closest available dataset and explain any limitations.

SP received your request on 25/03/2026 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 12(1) where the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit. Section 12(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the prescribed limit'.

The above information has been withheld for the following reasons:

There is no method by which SP can readily retrieve information from our systems to answer parts of this request. In order to determine the average length of stay for dogs seized under Section 1 and the total annual cost of kennelling Section 1 dogs, a manual review would be required as the figures SP hold are not limited to Section 1 dogs only. To extract this data would therefore require a very labour-intensive manual trawl through each record.

From dip sampling, it has been estimated that it would take in excess of 20 hours to compile the data for Section 1 dogs' kennelling costs. To achieve this task would therefore exceed the 18-hour time and cost threshold of the Freedom of Information Act by a considerable margin.

Advice and assistance

Section 16 of the Act places an obligation upon the Authority to provide advice and assistance, to comply with this obligation please see below.

If your request was refined, SP would be able to provide the following:

1. a) Between 01/02/2024 and 26/03/2026, the total number of dogs seized under Section 1.
b) Of those seized, the number:
 - i - Disclaimed by the owner
 - ii - Returned to the owner as not being of a prohibited type
 - iii - Subject to a Contingent Destruction Order and added to the Index of Exempted Dogs
 - iv - Ordered to be euthanised by the court
2. a) The average time between seizure and formal assessment/typing decision
b) The average time between seizure and return for dogs found not to be of a prohibited type
3. The average cost per dog per day for kennelling

Please note that SP do not hold the following information: data relating to Dangerous Dogs prior to February 2024, the number of Section 1 seized dogs with a prior recorded incident of aggression towards a person, the average time between seizure and final outcome for Section 1 seized dogs.

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/>



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Freedom of Information
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