

31 March 2026

FOI Ref 22709

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

The request concerns violent offences in school settings recorded by your force.

Please can you provide the following for the past 10 calendar years 2015-2025?

1. The total number of violent incidents recorded in primary and secondary schools in your force area for each calendar year listed above. Please break down the data by year and whether it is primary or secondary.

a) The total number of arrests and charges for violent incidents recorded in primary and secondary schools in your force area for each calendar year listed above where recorded

b) Where recorded, please include the offender's age or the category: under 10 or under 18.

2. For each calendar year, please provide the total number of violent incidents in primary and secondary schools within your force area that fall under the 'violence against the person' crime category. Please break down the data by year and whether it is primary or secondary.

a) The total number of arrests and charges for violence against the person incidents recorded in primary and secondary schools in your force area for each calendar year listed above if recorded.

b) Where recorded, please include the offender's age or the category (under 10, under 18).

3. For each calendar year, please provide the total number of knife crime incidents in primary and secondary schools within your force area. Please break down the data by year and whether it is primary or secondary.

a) Please break down by no injury recorded or injury recorded

b) The total number of arrests and charges for knife crime offences

c) Where recorded, please include the offender's age or the category "under 10" or "under 18."

For clarification, when I refer to 'violent incidents,' I mean the CPS definition of violent crime which includes murder/attempted murder, manslaughter, assault, arson, gun and knife crime, robbery and throwing corrosive substances such as acid.

4. Please provide a redacted copy of incidents recorded in the latest month for which you have data. For example, please include redacted details recorded in the log (e.g., the weapon used, a description of the incident, etc)

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:

This is because on 20th May 2020 SP implemented a new case management system. This system brought data from multiple legacy systems into one to provide a single nominal record, including the custody system. The old custody system has now been decommissioned and as a result there is no search facility to be able to retrieve the requested data. It would entail searching thousands of records to establish if it fitted the criteria of the request. To achieve this task would exceed the 18-hour time and cost threshold stipulated by the FOI Act.

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.

In order to refine your request, data can be provided for the number of violent offences including violence against the person in schools from 20th May 2020 until 31st December 2025. A breakdown of primary and secondary schools can be provided where this is named in the occurrence address. The number of arrests and charges can also be provided for these offences along with offender age. The same can also be provided for knife crimes in schools that include the following offences:

- 'Possession of other offensive weapon on school/further education premises'
- 'Having an article with a blade or point on school/further education premises'
- 'Threaten with a blade or sharply pointed article on school/further education premises'
- 'Threaten with an offensive weapon on school/further education premises'

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:



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

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