

26 March 2026

FOI Ref 22712

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

I would like to request the following information in relation to the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (commonly known as Clare's Law):

1. Applications received

Please provide the total number of Clare's Law applications received in the following calendar years:

2023
2024
2025

2. Outcomes of applications

For each of the above years, please provide:

- a) The number of applications that resulted in a disclosure being made
- b) The number of applications that did not result in a disclosure

If available, please also include the number of applications withdrawn or not progressed.

3. Nature of offences disclosed

For the most recent ten cases in 2025 where a disclosure was made, please provide:

- a) The primary offence disclosed in each case
- b) Please ensure all responses are fully anonymised and redacted to avoid identifying individuals. A brief description of the offence type (for example, "assault occasioning actual bodily harm", "coercive and controlling behaviour") is sufficient.

4. Repeat offenders

- a) Please provide the number of disclosures (for each year listed above, if available) where the subject of the disclosure had:

More than one recorded domestic abuse-related offence or incident

If your systems do not allow this exact breakdown, please provide the closest available equivalent measure and explain any limitations.

SP received your request on 26/03/2026 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 this request. For the second part of question 2, in relation to the number of applications withdrawn or not progressed, a manual review of 1,950 applications would need to be conducted in order to determine how many were withdrawn or not progressed. Furthermore, in order to retrieve the number of individuals who had more than one recorded domestic abuse-related offence or incident (question 4), a manual review of each disclosure would need to be conducted. There are over 1,100 disclosures that would each need to be reviewed to extract this data.

From dip sampling, it has been estimated that it would take approximately 30 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to over 550 hours to answer question 4 and over 975 hours to answer the second part of question 2. 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. Applications received

Please provide the total number of Clare's Law applications received in the following calendar years:

2023

2024

2025

2. Outcomes of applications

For each of the above years, please provide:

- a) The number of applications that resulted in a disclosure being made
- b) The number of applications that did not result in a disclosure

Please note that SP do not hold recorded information relating to the 'primary offence' on DVDS disclosures as requested in question 3.

Please be advised that all Freedom of Information request responses are published on the SP website although personal details are not included.



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 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