

8 May 2026

FOI Ref 22762

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

I would like to request information regarding dog bites and dog aggression incidents recorded by Staffordshire Police.

Please provide the following data for:

Annual Incident Volumes

- The number of recorded offences under the Home Office Counting Rules classification "Owner or person in charge of allowing a dog to be dangerously out of control, injuring any person or assistance dog" for each calendar year from 2020 to 2025.

Victim Demographic and Location

- Please provide separate breakdowns of victims by:
 - Victim age group
 - Victim gender
 - Location type (private residence, public open place, street or pavement, workplace)

Please provide these for each year from 2020 to 2025. If a full year-by-year breakdown is not possible, aggregate across the full period is acceptable.

Outcomes

- Please provide the data on the outcome of these offences for each year during 2020-2025, including:
 - Charge/ prosecution
 - Caution or warning
 - No further action
- A monthly breakdown of the same offences for the most recent calendar year to date (January 2026 -April 2026)

DDA Seizures

- Please provide data on the number of dogs seized under the Dangerous Dog Act 1991 for each calendar year from 2020 to 2025
- Please also provide the number of dogs seized under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 for each month of 2026 to date (January 2026 to April 2026)



SP received your request on 13/04/2026 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.

I would like to request information regarding dog bites and dog aggression incidents recorded by Staffordshire Police.

Please provide the following data for:

Annual Incident Volumes

- The number of recorded offences under the Home Office Counting Rules classification "Owner or person in charge of allowing a dog to be dangerously out of control, injuring any person or assistance dog" for each calendar year from 2020 to 2025. – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 22762 Dog Bites and Dog Aggression Data.xlsx'.**

Victim Demographic and Location

- Please provide separate breakdowns of victims by:
 - Victim age group
 - Victim gender
 - Location type (private residence, public open place, street or pavement, workplace)

Please provide these for each year from 2020 to 2025. If a full year-by-year breakdown is not possible, aggregate across the full period is acceptable. – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 22762 Dog Bites and Dog Aggression Data.xlsx'.**

Outcomes

- Please provide the data on the outcome of these offences for each year during 2020-2025, including:
 - Charge/ prosecution
 - Caution or warning
 - No further action
- A monthly breakdown of the same offences for the most recent calendar year to date (January 2026 -April 2026) – **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 22762 Dog Bites and Dog Aggression Data.xlsx'.**

DDA Seizures

- Please provide data on the number of dogs seized under the Dangerous Dog Act 1991 for each calendar year from 2020 to 2025

- Please also provide the number of dogs seized under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 for each month of 2026 to date (January 2026 to April 2026) – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 22762 Dog Bites and Dog Aggression Data.xlsx'.**

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 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 relating to open and ongoing cases 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 SP serves. 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 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 SP are required to determine whether on balance the factors favouring disclosure outweigh those which are against disclosure. In this instance, it is SP's view that the factors favouring disclosure do not outweigh those which favour non-disclosure.

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 and software. Additional offences and incidents 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. It should be noted that there are a number of victims where

the gender has been recorded but not the age. Likewise, there are also a number of victims where the age has been recorded but not the gender.

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.

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



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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