

7 May 2026

FOI Ref 22805

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

Please provide data relating to theft of delivered parcels (for example, parcels stolen from doorsteps, communal hallways, shared post areas, or immediately outside residential premises), recorded by your force between 1 January 2022 and 31 December 2026 inclusive.

Recorded offences

1. Please provide the total number of recorded crimes per calendar year (2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, and 2026 to date) where:
 - the Home Office crime code used was 49/10 - Theft (not classified elsewhere) (or any successor or equivalent code), and
 - the recorded circumstances indicate that the stolen property was a delivered parcel or package.

Outcomes

1. For the offences described above, please provide, broken down by calendar year, the number of cases that resulted in:
 - an arrest, and
 - b) a charge.

If outcomes are recorded using outcome codes rather than arrest/charge fields, please provide the figures corresponding to:

- crimes resulting in at least one arrest, and
- crimes resulting in a charge or summons (or equivalent disposal).

Identification method

I recognise that there is no specific Home Office offence code for parcel theft. For the purposes of this request, parcel theft offences may be identified using:

- any local flags, markers, or MO categories used by your force, and/or
- keyword searches within free-text fields (for example "parcel", "package", "delivered", "left at doorstep", "communal area", or similar).

Please use whichever method or combination of methods your force normally relies on when responding to internal analysis or FOI requests of this nature.

Context and limitations

If it is not possible to provide a complete response, please:



- indicate which parts of the request cannot be answered,
- explain why the information is not held or not retrievable, and
- provide any partial data that can be disclosed within cost and time limits.

Please also confirm:

- the crime recording system used during the period covered, and
- whether any changes to recording or outcomes practice between 2022 and 2026 may affect comparability over time.

SP received your request on 27/04/2026 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 period requested, there have been more than 1400 occurrences, to determine whether the theft related to a 'Delivered parcel or packet'. Whilst the free text search returned those occurrences mentioning the phrases outlined in your request, all occurrences would require a manual review to determine whether the parcel or packet in question was delivered, and not merely stolen from a car or van enroute to being delivered or alternatively enroute to being posted. 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 approximately 5 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to over 110 hours. To achieve this task would therefore exceed the 18-hour time and cost threshold of the FOI 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 total number of recorded crimes per calendar year (2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, and 2026 to date) where:
the Home Office crime code used was 49/10 - Theft (not classified elsewhere) (or any successor or equivalent code)

These could be broken down by, the number of cases that resulting in an arrest, and/or a charge.

However, please be aware that further exemptions may apply.

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.



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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