

22 May 2026

FOI Ref 22810

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

I am requesting the following information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please provide data relating to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) recorded by your force for the past five years:

1. Number of FGM-related crime reports recorded by your force.
2. Number of FGM-related investigations initiated.
3. Number of arrests made in relation to FGM.
4. Number of charges brought.
5. Number of prosecutions referred to the CPS.
6. Outcomes of those cases (e.g., no further action, charge, alternative offence, outcome unknown).
7. Any safeguarding referrals made to partner agencies specifically relating to FGM.
8. Any internal guidance, policy, or training documents your force uses for responding to FGM (if disclosable).
9. Whether your force has a designated lead for harmful practices or FGM, and if so, the role title (not the name).

If possible, please provide the above in a year-by-year breakdown.

Thank you for your assistance.

SP received your request on 28/04/2026 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

SP's response to your enquiry is as follows:

**SP holds/does not hold the requested information.**

Please provide data relating to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) recorded by your force for the past five years:

- 1. Number of FGM-related crime reports recorded by your force. – **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 22810 Female Genital Mutilation Data.xlsx'.**



- 2. Number of FGM-related investigations initiated. – **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 22810 Female Genital Mutilation Data.xlsx'.**
- 3. Number of arrests made in relation to FGM. – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 22810 Female Genital Mutilation Data.xlsx'.**
- 4. Number of charges brought. – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 22810 Female Genital Mutilation Data.xlsx'.**
- 5. Number of prosecutions referred to the CPS. – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 22810 Female Genital Mutilation Data.xlsx'.**
- 6. Outcomes of those cases (e.g., no further action, charge, alternative offence, outcome unknown). – **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 22810 Female Genital Mutilation Data.xlsx'.**
- 7. Any safeguarding referrals made to partner agencies specifically relating to FGM. – **Withheld.**
- 8. Any internal guidance, policy, or training documents your force uses for responding to FGM (if disclosable). – **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 22810 Female Genital Mutilation Policies.pdf'.**
- 9. Whether your force has a designated lead for harmful practices or FGM, and if so, the role title (not the name). – **Disclosed, the FGM Lead for the force is the Superintendent from PPU Child Protection.**

**The following exemptions have been applied:**

In accordance with Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, this letter represents a refusal notice for parts of this particular request.

- Section 21(1) Information reasonably accessible by other means.

Section 21 is an absolute, class-based exemption and as such there is no requirement to quantify the harm that may arise from the disclosure, nor is there a requirement to perform a Public Interest Test.

- Section 31 (1)(a)(b) Law Enforcement

Information is exempt from disclosure under S31(1)(a)(b) where the release of Information would, or would be likely to, prejudice the prevention and detection of crime and/ or the apprehension or prosecution of offenders. This exemption is qualified and prejudice-based and, as such, we are required to evidence the harm in disclosure and apply the public interest test.

- Section 40(2) Personal Information

Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption which means that there is no need to quantify the harm that may arise from the disclosure; neither is it subject to a public interest test.

To release personal or third-party information held by SP, would breach the data protection principles; namely –

- Data is lawfully and fairly processed.
- Processed in line with an individual's rights.
- Data is secure.

Personal and third-party information cannot be released under the Freedom of Information Act.

Disclosure under Freedom of Information is a release of information to the world in general and not an individual applicant.

- Section 44(1) Prohibitions on disclosure

Section 44(1) is an absolute exemption which means that there is no need to quantify the harm that may arise from the disclosure; neither is it subject to a public interest test.

### **Harm:**

Where dealing with matters relating to FGM it is important to bear in mind that victims of such crime are afforded lifelong anonymity and a breach of that anonymity is a summary offence. Therefore, provision of specific details surrounding female genital mutilation reports and investigations would undermine existing investigations, operations and police tactics. Disclosure of information that would expose specific cases or from which it would be possible to identify specific victims would not only be of detriment to those investigations it would breach the anonymity afforded to such victims and be of detriment to how future investigations are conducted.

Disclosure of such information would allow those with ill intent to cause disruption to operational policing and prejudice the prevention and detection of crime.

### **Public Interest Test**

#### **Factors favouring disclosure under Section 31(1)(a)(b)**

To disclose this information would adhere to the basic principle of being open and transparent, it would also lead to a better public awareness of the workings of the police force and the communications used with operations and during routine policing.

#### **Factors favouring non-disclosure under Section 31(1)(a)(b)**

Releasing such data would give those individuals with the intent to do so, the intelligence required to disrupt police activity. This knowledge would allow those with ill intent to target their offending more effectively which would inevitably lead to an increased likelihood of criminal activity and an increased danger to the public. Any disclosure of information which is likely to undermine the ability to serve the public in preventing and detecting crime can only be considered as being harmful to the public.

### **Balance test**

When considering whether disclosure is appropriate, SP must weigh the strongest reason for disclosure against the strongest reasons for non-disclosure. In this case, whilst the factors favouring disclosure are

important in that it would adhere to the basic principle of being open and transparent, SP believe when weighed against the risk of disclosure undermining our ability to prevent and detect crime and hindering SP's ability to protect the public, then non-disclosure takes precedence.

### **Advice and assistance**

In order to comply with our obligations under Section 16 of the Act, the obligation to provide advice and assistance, please find below links to the information requested.

- [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/613f26d5e90e07044435c949/6.7166\\_HO\\_FBIS\\_BN\\_O\\_Leaflet\\_A4\\_FINAL\\_080321\\_WEB.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/613f26d5e90e07044435c949/6.7166_HO_FBIS_BN_O_Leaflet_A4_FINAL_080321_WEB.pdf)

**With regard to question 8, SP can neither confirm nor deny whether further relevant information is or is not held, as the duty in Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 does not apply by virtue of the following exemptions:**

In accordance with Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, this letter represents a refusal notice for this request.

- Section 23(5) – Information supplied by, or relating to, bodies dealing with security matters. Section 23 is an absolute class-based exemption and as such does not require the application of a Public Interest Test.

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](mailto:IAT@staffordshire.police.uk)

Or by Post to:

Information Access Team  
Staffordshire Police HQ  
PO Box 3167  
Stafford



STAFFORDSHIRE  
**POLICE**

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, taking into account 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