

29 April 2026

FOI Ref 22813

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

Apologies if my request wasn't clear, but is it possible to break down the data by coffee shop?

Original Request:

1. Please could you provide data for the total number of recorded incidents of violence against the person (including common assault, ABH, GBH, and robbery) in 2025 and 2026 (to date) where the victim was a staff member and the location was recorded as one of the following retailers: Greggs, Costa Coffee, Pret A Manger, Caffè Nero, Starbucks

(Note: If your system allows, please also include incidents where the 'Location' or 'MO' fields contain these brand names.)

2. Of the incidents identified, how many were recorded as having a "theft" or "shoplifting" element (e.g., violence occurring when a suspect was challenged for theft)?

3. For each incident identified, please provide a brief summary of the method of violence, nature of any injuries sustained, and the outcome of the investigation.

I am happy for this data to be provided digitally and in an anonymised table format. I would like it to be broken down by calendar year.

If the cost limit is likely to be exceeded, please prioritize the total count (question 1) and the outcome (question 3).

SP received your request on 29/04/2026 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.

- Is it possible to break down the data by coffee shop? – **Partially disclosed, in 2025 there were 2 occurrences with the recorded location as Starbucks. In 2026 there were 2 occurrences with the recorded location as Costa Coffee. There are 3 ongoing investigations, these locations will not be disclosed at this time, please see below.**

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 this particular 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 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 therefore 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. It is SP's view that the factors favouring disclosure do not outweigh those which favour non-disclosure.

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



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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