

5 May 2026

FOI Ref 22826

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

Request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding drug-facilitated sexual assault (DFSA) committed by an intimate partner for the period 1st January 2015 to 31st December 2025. I am seeking statistical data only and am not requesting any personally identifiable information about victims, suspects, or offenders.

Where a question cannot be answered for the full period due to recording limitations, please provide data for whatever period is available and state the reason. If the request exceeds the Section 12 cost limit, please provide advice and assistance under Section 16 as to how I may refine it. I am content to receive information in any standard format convenient to you.

1. How many offences were recorded each year (2015–2025) where a victim was allegedly drugged or had a substance administered without their consent by an intimate partner (spouse, cohabiting partner, or boyfriend/girlfriend), and a sexual offence was subsequently committed against them while incapacitated? Please include data regardless of how the investigation originated- whether victim-reported, arising from third parties, device seizures, platform referrals, or where police identified and approached the victim directly.
2. In how many of those cases were there allegations that one or more third parties also committed or attempted to commit a sexual offence against the victim while they were incapacitated? Please include the total number of suspects identified across each case and data for suspects for non-contact offences.
3. Of those recorded offences, how many resulted in:
 - (a) arrest of a suspect
 - (b) arrest of additional suspects within the same investigation
 - (c) a file submitted to the Crown Prosecution Service
 - (d) a conviction
 - (e) no further action
4. In how many cases was there an allegation or evidence that images or video recordings of the victim were made without their consent during the offence?
5. Of the cases in question 4, in how many was there an allegation or evidence that such material was shared with third parties via: (a) adult or pornographic websites; (b) encrypted or private messaging platforms; (c) file-sharing platforms? Please provide a count for each category where recorded (note: I am not requesting a breakdown by individual platform name, only by category, to assist with proportionality).
6. This final question is not limited to cases involving an intimate partner. How many recorded offences or investigations between 2015 and 2025 have featured suspected DFSA where video or imagery of the victim being sexually assaulted whilst in a state of incapacitation was subsequently posted on: (a) adult or pornographic websites; (b) encrypted or private messaging platforms; (c) file-sharing platforms? Please provide a count for each category where recorded. Please include data regardless of how the

investigation originated- whether victim-reported, arising from third parties, device seizures, platform referrals, or where police identified and approached the victim directly.
If you require any clarification or further information, please do let me know.

SP received your request on 01/05/2026 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 34,000 sexual offences recorded. In order to determine whether the victim and offender had an intimate relationship, whether there were any substances administered, whether a third party was involved, the outcome of the offence, or whether there were any allegations that images or video recordings of the victim were made or shared, the record for each offence would require a manual review. 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 10-20 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to between 5,666 and 11,333 hours. 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.

Unfortunately, SP cannot suggest a way in which your request could be simplified or pared down to bring it within the confines of the time and cost threshold.

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.

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