

27 May 2026

FOI Ref 22828

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

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide the following information for the last three full calendar years (2023, 2024, 2025):

1. The total number of recorded crimes where the keyword 'TikTok' or 'Tik Tok' appears in the Modus Operandi (MO) field or Investigation Summary of your crime recording system.
- a) Please breakdown the recorded crimes by the high-level offence type or category (e.g., Harassment, Violence Against the Person, Fraud, sexual offence etc).
- b) Please also breakdown these crimes by the location they were recorded in, specifically by Basic Command Unit (BCU), District, or Borough.
- c) Could you also please breakdown the same recorded crimes by the age of the victim, using standard age brackets (e.g., Under 13, 13–17, 18–24, 25–44, 45+).

To ensure this request remains within the Section 12 cost limit, please rely on automated database queries rather than manual reviews of individual case files. If extracting the location data will push the request over the 18-hour limit, please omit that specific section and prioritize the crime types and victim age data. Please provide your response in PDF format.

Clarification received on 22/05/2026

Thank you for getting back to me regarding my request and for advising on the Section 12 cost limit.

I can confirm I am happy to withdraw the request for a summary of each crime in order to keep the request within the 18-hour time limit.

Please provide the following information for the last three full calendar years (2023, 2024, 2025):

1. The total number of recorded crimes where the keyword 'TikTok' or 'Tik Tok' appears in the Modus Operandi (MO) field or Investigation Summary of your crime recording system.
2. Please also breakdown these crimes by the location they were recorded in, specifically by Basic Command Unit (BCU), District, or Borough.
3. Could you also please breakdown the same recorded crimes by the age of the victim, using standard age brackets (e.g., Under 13, 13–17, 18–24, 25–44, 45+).

SP received your request on 05/05/2026 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.

Please provide the following information for the last three full calendar years (2023,2024, 2025):

- 1. The total number of recorded crimes where the keyword 'TikTok' or 'Tik Tok' appears in the Modus Operandi (MO) field or Investigation Summary of your crime recording system. – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 22828 TikTok Crimes Data'.**
- 2. Please also breakdown these crimes by the location they were recorded in, specifically by Basic Command Unit (BCU), District, or Borough. – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 22828 TikTok Crimes Data'.**
- 3. Could you also please breakdown the same recorded crimes by the age of the victim, using standard age brackets (e.g., Under 13, 13–17, 18–24, 25–44, 45+). – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 22828 TikTok Crimes Data'. However, please note that there will be offences recorded where a victim has not been identified.**

Please note that the data presented has been retrieved by conducting a free text search of our Crime/Occurrence recording system for the following terms within the occurrence record of 'tiktok' or 'tik tok'. This type of search is subjective and is reliant upon the key term or phrase appearing within the specific field of search.

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/software. Additional offences 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.

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.



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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

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