

8 May 2026

FOI Ref 22835

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

1) In relation to all non-crime hate incidents that were logged by your force in the calendar month of September 2025 could you please provide me with (i) the exact nature of the actions or exact words used, (ii) where it was carried out (either a location such as school, workplace, street etc, or a specific social media platform/internet, and (iii) the age of the perpetrator if known. NOTE: In Question 1 I am content for any details to be redacted so that the identity of the victim and perpetrator are not disclosed, but I would like as much detail about the circumstances of the incident as possible.

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/does not hold the requested information.

1. In relation to all non-crime hate incidents that were logged by your force in the calendar month of September 2025 could you please provide me with (i) the exact nature of the actions or exact words used, (ii) where it was carried out (either a location such as school, workplace, street etc, or a specific social media platform/internet, and (iii) the age of the perpetrator if known. – **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 22835 Non-Crime Hate Incidents Data.xlsx'.**

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 of this request.

- Section 38 (1) (a) (b) – Health and Safety

Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to (a) endanger the physical or mental health of any individual, or (b) endanger the safety of any individual. 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.

Harm

To provide copies of the remarks made by individuals that are of an offensive nature would be likely to have a detrimental effect on the mental health of those individuals viewing or reading such remarks. The disclosure of such information could make mental illness worse, and cause upset and/or distress. If SP were to repeat the content of the remarks, this would perpetuate the offensive nature of the content to a wider audience, broadcasting offensive material and views to which SP do not subscribe or condone and which fall below the standards expected.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring disclosure under Section 38(1)(a)(b)

In addition to the basic premise of being open and transparent, disclosure of the offensive remarks would inform the public on non-crime hate incidents being recorded by the force and inform public debate upon how public funds are being spent.

Factors favouring non-disclosure under Section 38(1)(a)(b)

Disclosure of the remarks would affect the mental health of those affected or involved if released into the public domain. The disclosure of this offensive information could subject SP to criticism. Furthermore, the offensive nature of these remarks would be likely to have a detrimental effect on the mental health of those who read or view them.

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, 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

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