

29 May 2026

FOI Ref 22912

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

1. Does your force use

VFR: Video First Response

RVR: Rapid Video Response/Review

EVR: Enhanced Video Response/Review

as a response to domestic abuse incidents where there are children related to any of the adult involved

Yes

No

If the answer is 'no' then you need proceed no further.

If the answer is 'yes' then please provide the following information:

2. Please provide a brief rationale for using VFR/RVR/EVR for domestic abuse incidents where there are children related to any of the adults involved.

3. Please provide your force's

a. Policy

b. Working Protocols and

c. Children's Rights Impact Assessment for using a video response for domestic incidents where there are children related to any of the adults involved.

4. How is your force ensuring that you are adhering to the Statutory Guidance and legal requirements of Operation Encompass when using VFR/RVR or EVR.

5. Please provide the specific training that has been provided to staff implementing VFR/RVR/EVR with regards to children as victims of domestic abuse and the legal requirements of Operation Encompass.

6. Please provide the numbers of children who have been involved in such incidents since January 2026 and the ages of these children.

SP received your request on 21/05/2026 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 question 6 of this request. For the period requested, there have been in excess of 1,200 EVR records. To ascertain how many of those records involved children and also to identify the ages of each child, the record for each one 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 3 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to over 60 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.

In order to refine your request, data could be provided for questions 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 if the requirement to provide data for question 6 were to be removed. However, please note that further exemptions may apply.

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



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

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