

29 May 2026

FOI Ref 22926

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

I am making a request under the Freedom of Information Act for the following information held by you.

Can you please tell me:

How many e-bikes, e-scooters, e-mopeds have been seized by your force in the last three financial years.

2025/26

2024/25

2023/24

Can you list those seized:

- Under Section 165A of the Road Traffic Act 1988. (IE for not being appropriately registered as motor vehicles)
- For breaches of Electrically Assisted Pedal Cycle Regulations 1983.

For any other reason, please detail where possible.

Can you say how many people have been charged with offences relating to possession of e-bikes, e-scooters, e-mopeds.

How many of the seized e-bikes are:

- Sold/Auctioned
- Destroyed.
- held by police

Please let me know if you require further information to clarify any aspect of this request.

SP received your request on 27/05/2026 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:

This is because there is no readily retrievable method to extract data from our systems to answer this request. Within the system used to record seized property, there is no mandatory field from which we can easily identify e-scooters, e-bikes or e-mopeds. For the period requested, there have been upwards of 26,800 seized items reported. Each item entry would need to be individually reviewed and cross referenced to identify if an 'e-bike', 'e-scooter', 'e-moped' was involved and whether this had been seized as a result of being involved in the type of offences outlined and whether and subsequent charges had been achieved.

It has been estimated that to answer this request will take approximately 4 minutes to review each record, which equates to 1,786 hours. To achieve this task would therefore exceed the 18-hour time and cost threshold of the FOI Act by some 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 assist in refining your request, data could be provided from our property management system where a free text search of the property common name contains one of the following specific phrases:

E – Bike
E-Bike
EBike
E Bike
E – Scooter
E-Scooter
EScooter
E Scooter

Please note that this is by no means exhaustive and such searches are inherently inaccurate, relying on the specific word or phrase being used within a specific field of our software. Many items may have been recorded under make and model names rather than an overall generic title. Furthermore, this field is not mandatory and many further seizures may have been recorded where this field remains blank.

This data could be then broken down by Occurrence type or crime classification where the offence is recordable under Home Office counting rules. The most significant outcome could also be provided in each occurrence.

Where recorded within each log, it may also be possible to also provide the status of each seized item. i.e whether the item was destroyed, sold or auctioned, held by police; or returned to the owner.

Please be advised that all Freedom of Information request responses are published on the SP website although personal details are not included.



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

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