STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE

6 November 2026 **FOI Ref 23596**

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

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please send me the following information.

1. For each of the following, the supplier and product you currently use, number of units or licences, contract start and end dates, and annual cost: body-worn video; Taser/conducted energy devices; drones; digital device (phone) forensic extraction tools; facial recognition (retrospective, live or operator-initiated); ANPR; and your records management/crime recording system.
2. Which of these you are procuring or plan to procure in 2026/27.
I am not asking for operational details, tactics or locations.

Please send it as a spreadsheet (Excel or CSV) where it is held that way; an existing register, report or system export in its current format is fine. If any part would exceed the cost limit, please tell me what you can provide within it (section 16) and release the rest rather than refusing the whole request. Please redact personal data rather than withholding whole records.

SP received your request on 28/10/2026 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.

- 1. For each of the following, the supplier and product you currently use, number of units or licences, contract start and end dates, and annual cost: body-worn video; Taser/conducted energy devices; drones; digital device (phone) forensic extraction tools; facial recognition (retrospective, live or operator-initiated); ANPR; and your records management/crime recording system. **– Withheld, Section 21, 31 and 43.**

- 2. Which of these you are procuring or plan to procure in 2026/27. **– Withheld, Section 21, 31 and 43.**

  I am not asking for operational details, tactics or locations.

  Please send it as a spreadsheet (Excel or CSV) where it is held that way; an existing register, report or system export in its current format is fine. If any part would exceed the cost limit, please tell me what you can provide within it (section 16) and release the rest rather than refusing the whole request. Please redact personal data rather than withholding whole records.

The following exemptions have been applied:

In accordance with Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, this letter represents a refusal notice for this particular request.

- Section 21(1) - Information reasonably accessible by other means.

Section 21 is an absolute, class-based exemption and as such there is no requirement to quantify the harm that may arise from the disclosure, nor is there a requirement to perform a Public Interest Test.

- Section 31 (1)(a)(b) Law Enforcement

Information is exempt from disclosure under S31(1)(a)(b) where the release of Information would, or would be likely to, prejudice the prevention and detection of crime and/ or the apprehension or prosecution of offenders. 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 43(2) Commercial Interests

This is a prejudice based qualified exemption which means there is a requirement to provide evidence of harm, and a public interest test needs to be considered.

Harm:

Disclosure of this information would be likely to prejudice the prevention and detection of crime by revealing police capabilities, limitations, and operational methods. This could enable individuals to undermine or evade law enforcement activities, reducing the effectiveness of policing tactics and systems. In addition, disclosure would be likely to prejudice the commercial interests of both the force and third-party suppliers by releasing commercially sensitive information regarding police technologies and services.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring disclosure under Section 31(1)(a)(b)

To disclose this information would adhere to the basic principle of being open and transparent, it would also lead to a better public awareness of the workings of the police force and the communications used with operations and during routine policing.

Factors favouring non-disclosure under Section 31(1)(a)(b)

Releasing such data would give those individuals with the intent to do so, the intelligence required to disrupt police activity. This knowledge would allow those with ill intent to target their offending more effectively which would inevitably lead to an increased likelihood of criminal activity and an increased danger to the public. Any disclosure of information which is likely to undermine the ability to serve the public in preventing and detecting crime can only be considered as being harmful to the public.

Factors favouring disclosure under Section 43(2)

Disclosure of the requested information would allow the public to be aware of how public funds are spent or allocated and thereby would provide transparency and accountability, showing that funds from the public purse are used appropriately and proportionally.

Factors favouring non-disclosure under Section 43(2)

Through disclosure of the requested information, SP would find that its negotiating position would be greatly impaired through the release of details that would not only likely be prejudicial to SP but also to the agencies/companies involved. Releasing this information would be expected to have a detrimental effect on their ability to be competitive in the future and would be exceedingly likely to deter further enterprises submitting offers for tender in the future. This then would impede SP obtaining the most competitive or appropriate services in the future and negatively impact upon the public purse.

Balance test

It is the responsibility of SP, when dealing with commercial businesses, to not only protect their commercial interest but also that of SP. Commercial interests must be protected so that the best possible value for money is obtained through open competition, both for businesses and SP. This would not be achieved if full details were to be made available to the market.

Although the use of public funds must be open and transparent, SP is accountable for the money that it spends and utilises and if to release the information means the force is unable to negotiate future tendering and have the ability to secure value for money due to business relationships having been impaired, then this would not be in the public interest.

Having considered the public interest test factors, we are required to determine whether, on balance, the factors favouring disclosure outweigh those which are against disclosure. It is our view that the factors favouring disclosure do not outweigh those which favour withholding the details. Therefore, SP declines to provide the information for the reasons stated above.

Advice and assistance

To comply with our obligations under Section 16 of the Act, the obligation to provide advice and assistance.

You can find some of your request data from SP's contracts register for radios, body worn video, mobile phones, laptops and Tasers using the below link:

Contracts Register | Proquro

Please note, further information is withheld under Section 31 and 43. Please see above exemptions.

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

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, taking into account 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