

1 October 2026

FOI Ref 23418

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

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I request the following information relating to stop and search encounters carried out by Staffordshire Police.

For each calendar year from 2015 to 2025, or the most recent period for which data are available, please provide the number of stop and search encounters and, where available, the percentage that each category represents of all stop and search encounters in that calendar year, broken down by:

- * sex
- * age group
- * ethnic group
- * reason/legal power for search (e.g. Section 1 PACE 1984, Section 23 Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, Section 60 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, or other power used)
- * outcome of the search.

Please provide outcome categories as recorded within the stop and search dataset and, where possible, map them to the categories listed below:

- * no further action
- * arrest
- * summons/charged by post
- * penalty notice for disorder
- * caution
- * community resolution
- * other final-outcome categories recorded within the data.

Please include any categories recorded as unknown, not stated, other, or missing, where applicable.

Where the data can be broken down by more than one of the above categories simultaneously (for example, sex and age group together), please provide it on that combined basis. If it is only possible to provide single-category breakdowns, please provide those instead.

Please provide the information in an electronic format (such as Excel or CSV), together with any accompanying definitions, metadata, data dictionaries or explanatory notes necessary to interpret the data.

If calendar-year data are not available, financial-year data covering the same period would be acceptable.

If any part of this request exceeds the appropriate cost limit under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide any information that can be disclosed within the limit and advise how the remaining request might be refined.

Clarification from applicant received 29/09/2026

Email from applicant:

Thank you for your email. Confirming that we are content with the amended request below.

SP received your request on 22/09/2026 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.

For each calendar year from 2015 to 2025, or the most recent period for which data are available, please provide the number of stop and search encounters and, where available, the percentage that each category represents of all stop and search encounters in that calendar year, broken down by:

- * sex
- * age group
- * ethnic group
- * reason/legal power for search (e.g. Section 1 PACE 1984, Section 23 Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, Section 60 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, or other power used)
- * outcome of the search. – **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 23418 Stop and Search Data'.**

Please provide outcome categories as recorded within the stop and search dataset and, where possible, map them to the categories listed below:

- * no further action
- * arrest
- * summons/charged by post
- * penalty notice for disorder
- * caution
- * community resolution
- * other final-outcome categories recorded within the data. – **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 23418 Stop and Search Data'.**

Please include any categories recorded as unknown, not stated, other, or missing, where applicable. – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 23418 Stop and Search Data'.**

Where the data can be broken down by more than one of the above categories simultaneously (for example, sex and age group together), please provide it on that combined basis. If it is only possible to provide single-category breakdowns, please provide those instead. – **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 23418 Stop and Search Data'.**

Please provide the information in an electronic format (such as Excel or CSV), together with any accompanying definitions, metadata, data dictionaries or explanatory notes necessary to interpret the data. – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 23418 Stop and Search Data'.**

If calendar-year data are not available, financial-year data covering the same period would be acceptable.
– **Not applicable.**

As agreed, this data relates to the number of stop and searches conducted each year, broken down by age group, gender, self-defined ethnicity, legal power used and outcome.

Please note that the data is held from 20th May 2020 (due to a change in recording system) to 22nd September 2026. For Q1, the figures include both vehicle and person stop searches. For all subsequent questions, these figures relate to person stop searches only.

This data has been provided to the best of the ability of SP, subject to the limitation of current recording protocols and systems and software. Additional stop searches 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 figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that data is 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.

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 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.



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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

An outstanding local police service that cares

Confident Communities Exceptional Workforce Productive Partnerships Outstanding Organisation