

6 October 2026

FOI Ref 23462

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

Dear FOI team,

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am writing to request information regarding the number of reported incidents of spiking within your jurisdiction.

Please provide the following data for the last three financial years (2023/24, 2024/25, and 2025/26 to date), broken down by each individual financial year:

1. The total number of reported incidents of spiking. Please include both "drink spiking" and "needle/injection spiking"
2. A breakdown of the total figures by the method of spiking reported (i.e., how many were reported as drink spiking, and how many were reported as needle/injection spiking)
3. A breakdown of the total figures by the gender and age group of the alleged victims
4. A breakdown of the total figures by the type of location where the incident was alleged to have occurred (e.g., nightclub, pub/bar, house party, residential home, outdoor space)
5. A breakdown of the recorded outcomes for these reports (e.g., charge/summons, evidential difficulties, no suspect identified, case dropped).

Please provide your response in Excel/Sheets format if possible, and let me know if any amendments are needed.

SP received your request on 30/09/2026 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 local police systems to answer this request. Prior to 2026, SP did not have a spiking qualifier, and spiking may have been recorded under various offences. For the period requested, there have been in excess of 400 offences and 117,500 incidents which may relate to 'drink spiking' and 'needle/injection spiking'. To determine whether the offence or incident involves spiking, and then to determine the location and the substance involved, the record for each offence and incident 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 5 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to over 9,825 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 the following offences occurring within the time period requested, broken down by financial year and outcome:

- Administering poison so as to endanger life
- Administering poison with intent to injure or annoy
- Administering a substance with intent

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, considering the matters raised by the complaint.

4. Conclusion of the Appeal



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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