

5 October 2026

FOI Ref 23465

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

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, and as a member of the Media acting in the best interest of the public, I am requesting that you please provide all records that discuss or describe:

- Officer(s) Involved: Staffordshire Police rape and serious sexual offences team detectives "conducted investigation and charged suspect"; Staffordshire Police spokesperson "provided public statement"
- Suspect: Bishop David James Oakley, 70, from Desborough, Kettering, Northamptonshire, United Kingdom
- Suspects date of birth: N/A
- Charges: Two counts of rape of a female under 16; one count of indecent assault
- Date of arrest: September 2025 (Arrest occurred in September 2025; charged in June 2026; due to appear at Cannock Magistrates' Court on 14 August 2026)
- Time of Incident: N/A
- Address of the Arrest: Desborough, Kettering, Northamptonshire, United Kingdom

REQUESTING: all bodycam footage for this case in video format. I want all bodycam footage from every officer involved. This includes any and all bodycam video connected to the incident — officers talking with victims, taking the suspect into custody, witnesses, bystanders, or anyone else related. In short: every second of bodycam footage tied to this event and not only the arrest itself. I would also like all interview footage involving the suspect, witnesses, or the victim. Lastly, I'm also requesting the incident report of this case.

I confirm that this request for public records is being made for non-commercial purposes and is intended to serve the public interest. As a news agency, AllAboutCrime seeks to inform and educate the public about government accountability and transparency. The requested records will be used to produce educational and journalistic content shared on YouTube, which serve as modern forums for public discourse. While these platforms may be monetized, the primary purpose of this request is to benefit the public by providing access to critical information. I would request a prompt response to this request. If you deny any or all of this request, please cite each specific exemption you feel justifies the refusal to release the information and notify me of the appeal procedures available to me under the law. Thank you for considering my request.

SP received your request on 01/10/2026 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

SP's response to your enquiry is as follows:

SP holds/does not hold the requested information.

- REQUESTING: all bodycam footage for this case in video format. I want all bodycam footage from every officer involved. This includes any and all bodycam video connected to the incident — officers talking with victims, taking the suspect into custody, witnesses, bystanders, or anyone else related. In short: every second of bodycam footage tied to this event and not only the arrest itself. I would also like all interview footage involving the suspect, witnesses, or the victim. Lastly, I'm also requesting the incident report of this case. – **Withheld.**

The following exemption has been applied:

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

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

Information is exempt from disclosure under S31(1)(b)(c) where the release of Information would, or would be likely to, prejudice the apprehension or prosecution of offenders, and the administration of justice. 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 40(2) Personal Information

Section 40(2) is an absolute exemption which means that there is no need to quantify the harm that may arise from the disclosure; neither is it subject to a public interest test.

To release personal or third-party information held by SP, would breach the data protection principles; namely –

- Data is lawfully and fairly processed.
- Processed in line with an individual's rights.
- Data is secure.

Personal and third-party information cannot be released under the Freedom of Information Act.

Disclosure under Freedom of Information is a release of information to the world in general and not an individual applicant.

Harm

The disclosure of bodyworn camera footage, interview footage and incident reports would prejudice the apprehension or prosecution of offenders, and the administration of justice. Disclosure of such information could reveal evidence, witness accounts, investigative material or the prosecution's evidential case before it has been tested in court. It could also create a risk of prejudicing the right to a fair trial.

Public Interest Test

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

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.

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

Releasing such information whilst a prosecution remains ongoing would damage the integrity of the criminal process and would interfere with the fairness of a trial. There is strong public interest in ensuring that evidence is considered by a court in the proper manner and at the appropriate stage. The release of the footage and other information relating to this investigation would risk this. Furthermore, there is a public interest in ensuring that criminal allegations are determined by the court on the basis of admissible evidence rather than through material released into the public domain before trial.

Balance test

When considering whether disclosure is appropriate, SP must weigh the strongest reason for disclosure against the strongest reasons for non-disclosure. In this case, whilst the factors favouring disclosure are important in that it would adhere to the basic principle of being open and transparent, SP believe when weighed against the risk of disclosure undermining SP's ability to apprehend or prosecute offenders, and administer justice, then non-disclosure takes precedence.

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, 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