

7 October 2026

FOI Ref 23479

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

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I request the following information concerning structured immigration-status information held within your custody, arrest or records-management systems. For clarity, I am not requesting a manual review of individual records, free-text fields, case files, intelligence records, documents or attachments. I am seeking only information that can be obtained from existing structured fields and existing automated reporting/database functionality.

1. Systems

Please identify the principal system currently used to record arrests/custody records, for example Niche RMS, Athena/Connect or another system.

Please also identify, where readily available, the reporting or Business Intelligence tool used to produce statistical reports from that system, for example Power BI, BOXI or equivalent.

2. Immigration-status fields

Please confirm whether arrest or custody records contain any structured field recording immigration status or an equivalent category.

This might, for example, be called:

“Immigration Status”

“Custody Person Immigration Status”

“Cust Per Immigration Status”

or another equivalent field.

Please provide the name of the field used by your force.

3. Available values

Please provide the selectable values, codes or categories available within that structured field and their definitions.

For example, another UK police force has disclosed categories including:

ASY – Asylum seeker

EXP – Expired status

ILE – Illegal entry

ILL – Illegal immigrant

ILR – Indefinite leave to remain

ILT – Indefinite leave to enter

IMG – Legal immigrant

RCL – Refugee claimant

REF – Refugee

SVA – Student visa

VIS – Legal visitor

WVA – Working visa

I am not assuming your force uses these categories. Please provide the values actually used by your system.

4. Annual arrest-record totals

For each calendar year from 1 January 2018 to the latest date available, please provide the number of arrest/custody records falling within each value of the structured immigration-status field.

Please also provide:

- number recorded as blank / not recorded / unknown;
- total number of arrest records for each year.

I am requesting arrest records rather than unique individuals, unless your existing reporting system only produces figures by individual, in which case please state this.

Please supply the information in spreadsheet or CSV format where possible.

5. Automated reporting

Please confirm whether the figures requested in Question 4 can be obtained through an existing automated query, reporting tool, Business Intelligence system or database report without manually examining individual records.

If yes, please identify the reporting system where readily available.

6. Where information is unavailable

If your force does not have a structured immigration-status field capable of producing these figures, please simply confirm:

“No structured field/report capable of producing the requested figures is held.”

There is no requirement to search free-text records to answer this request.

If the field or reporting capability was introduced during the requested period, please provide figures from the earliest date for which they are electronically retrievable and state that date.

Cost limit / Section 12

This request has deliberately been restricted to structured information and automated reporting.

Please do not undertake manual examination of individual custody records, crime reports, case files or free-text fields.

If any individual question would exceed the appropriate cost limit, please answer the remaining questions that can be answered and provide advice and assistance under Section 16 as to how that element could be narrowed.

SP received your request on 05/11/2026 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:

SP are unable to readily retrieve custody records from January 2018. This is because on 20th May 2020 SP implemented a new case management system. This system brought data from multiple legacy systems into one to provide a single nominal record, including the custody system. The old custody system has now been decommissioned and as a result there is no search facility to be able to retrieve the requested data. It would entail searching thousands of records to establish if it fitted the criteria of the request. To achieve this task would exceed the 18-hour time and cost threshold stipulated by the FOI Act.

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.

If your request was amended, SP would be able to provide the following:

1. Systems

Please identify the principal system currently used to record arrests/custody records, for example Niche RMS, Athena/Connect or another system.

Please also identify, where readily available, the reporting or Business Intelligence tool used to produce statistical reports from that system, for example Power BI, BOXI or equivalent.

2. Immigration-status fields

Please confirm whether arrest or custody records contain any structured field recording immigration status or an equivalent category.

Please provide the name of the field used by your force.

3. Available values

Please provide the selectable values, codes or categories available within that structured field and their definitions.

Please note that although SP do hold information relating to immigration status fields on our crime/occurrence recording systems, these are not utilised and therefore data relating to the immigration status of detainees cannot be retrieved without manually reviewing each individual custody log.

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