

16 October 2026

FOI Ref 23484

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

Please provide the following under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The verdict, date of verdict, and sentence, if any, in the trial of Rossano Traversari, of Douglas Road West, Stafford, charged with the murder of his wife Alison Traversari, 26, who died in a fire at Willowmoor, Moss Pit, Stafford, in October 1995. The trial was heard at Stafford Crown Court. A Herald report from during the trial said he had pleaded not guilty. If he was acquitted, please say so.

Any police or court description of the defendant released at the time, including age, height, build, hair, and clothing.

Any recorded ethnicity or ethnic appearance of the defendant, as held on the case file or custody record.

If the information is held by another force or by HMCTS, please transfer the request or tell me which body holds it. If you rely on section 40, please still release the verdict, the court, and the date, and confirm whether a description was published.

SP received your request on 06/10/2026 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.

- Please provide the following under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.
- The verdict, date of verdict, and sentence, if any, in the trial of Rossano Traversari, of Douglas Road West, Stafford, charged with the murder of his wife Alison Traversari, 26, who died in a fire at Willowmoor, Moss Pit, Stafford, in October 1995. The trial was heard at Stafford Crown Court. A Herald report from during the trial said he had pleaded not guilty. If he was acquitted, please say so.
- Any police or court description of the defendant released at the time, including age, height, build, hair, and clothing.
- Any recorded ethnicity or ethnic appearance of the defendant, as held on the case file or custody record.
- If the information is held by another force or by HMCTS, please transfer the request or tell me which body holds it. If you rely on section 40, please still release the verdict, the court, and the date, and confirm whether a description was published.
 - **Withheld, please see section 41 exemption below.**

All Freedom of Information request responses are published on the SP website although personal details are not included.

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 particular request.

- Section 41(1) Information provided in confidence
Information is exempt information if — (a) it was obtained by the public authority from any other person (including another public authority), and, (b) the disclosure of the information to the public (otherwise than under this Act) by the public authority holding it would constitute a breach of confidence actionable by that or any other person.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring disclosure under Section 41(1)

Disclosure of the information would improve the public's knowledge and understanding of how SP handles specific cases and how decisions are made regarding these cases held by SP.

Factors favouring non-disclosure under Section 41(1)

Disclosure of the requested information which contains sensitive and protected information provided in confidence by another person or public authority, would amount to an actionable breach of confidence. Public authorities often rely on the voluntary co-operation of individuals and other organisations, including the voluntary supply of information, to enable them to carry out their functions. Disclosure would erode the confidence of a person or public authority to provide information in confidence resulting in the reduced flow of information which may prejudice the functions of public authorities, in particular those performing regulatory functions.

Balance Test

Disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act is a release of information to the world in general and not an individual applicant. Having considered the public interest 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 non-disclosure.

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.

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