29 October 2026 **FOI Ref 23605**

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

This request is being sent to every police force in the UK. Please answer it for your own force.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (or, for Police Scotland, the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002), please provide the following for each financial year 2024-25 (1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025) and 2025-26 (1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026):

1. The number of people arrested, broken down by nationality as recorded in custody. Please include British nationals and a separate line for "nationality not recorded".

2. The number of arrested foreign nationals whose immigration status was checked with Home Office Immigration Enforcement (for example through the Immigration Enforcement National Command and Control Unit), and of those, how many were referred to or detained by Immigration Enforcement.

3. Where your custody or crime systems record it, the number of people arrested who were recorded as (a) asylum seekers and (b) having arrived in the UK by small boat or other irregular entry. If no such marker or field exists, please say so rather than searching individual records.

4. For question 3 only, a breakdown by the broad offence group of the main arrest offence (for example violence against the person, sexual offences, theft, drug offences, public order).

I am asking only for numbers, not for any information about individuals. If any figure is small enough to risk identifying someone, please show it as "fewer than 5" rather than withholding the answer.

If answering everything would exceed the cost limit, please answer questions 1 and 2 first, and give me advice and assistance under section 16 on how to narrow the rest. Spreadsheet format would be ideal.

Correspondence with applicant on 29/10/2026:
For questions 2, 3 and 4, to retrieve this data would involve the manual trawl of thousands of custody records as this information is not readily retrievable. This would engage Section 12 of the FOI Act (above time and cost).
Staffordshire Police would be able to provide data for Q1 of your request if questions 2, 3 and 4 were withdrawn. Please confirm you would like to withdraw these questions.

Correspondence from applicant on 29/10/2026:
Yes, please continue on that basis.

SP received your request on 28/10/2026 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.

- Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (or, for Police Scotland, the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002), please provide the following for each financial year 2024-25 (1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025) and 2025-26 (1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026):
  1. The number of people arrested, broken down by nationality as recorded in custody. Please include British nationals and a separate line for "nationality not recorded". **– Disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 23605 Arrests by Nationality Data.xlsx'.**

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 arrests 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.

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