

11 September 2026

FOI Ref 23266

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

For each calendar year 2023, 2024 and 2025, please provide the following information for your force:

1. The number of initial Notices of Intended Prosecution issued for road traffic offences.
2. The number of requirements to provide driver information issued under section 172 of the Road Traffic Act 1988.
3. The number of reminder notices issued in relation to unanswered section 172 requirements.
4. The number of cases recorded as referred, charged or otherwise proceeded with for an alleged failure to provide driver information under section 172(3).
5. Whether recipients could respond to a section 172 requirement online during each of those years. If so, please provide the public URL or the name of the system.
6. If your force already holds a report showing the average or median number of days between receiving a nomination and issuing a notice or driver information requirement to the nominated person, please provide that existing figure or report. We are not asking the force to create a new calculation for this item. Please provide the information in CSV or spreadsheet form where reasonably practicable. If Notices of Intended Prosecution and section 172 requirements are generated as a combined document and cannot be counted separately, please state that and provide the closest recorded measure with a short explanation.

SP received your request on 14/08/2026 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. For the period requested, there have been in excess of 158,000 Notices of Intended Prosecution issued. To identify the number of reminder notices issued in relation to unanswered Section 172 requirements would require a manual review of individual case records. Further time would also need to be taken to retrieve the number of cases recorded as referred, charged or otherwise proceeded with for an alleged failure to provide driver information under Section 172(3). 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 13,166 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.

If your request was refined, SP would be able to provide:

1. The number of initial Notices of Intended Prosecution issued for road traffic offences for 2023, 2024 and 2025.
2. Whether recipients could respond to a section 172 requirement online during each of the years 2023, 2024 and 2025. If so, please provide the public URL or the name of the system.

Please be advised that a Section 172 requirement is issued as part of the Notice of Intended Prosecution (NIP) process and is sent together with the NIP. As the two documents are issued concurrently, SP are unable to provide a separate breakdown of Section 172 notices from the figures of NIPs. In addition, SP do not hold a report showing the average number of days between receiving a nomination and issuing a notice or driver information requirement to the nominated person.

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

Or by Post to:

Information Access Team
Staffordshire Police HQ
PO Box 3167
Stafford
ST16 9JZ



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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