

14 September 2026

FOI Ref 23315

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

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request information relating to offences involving the use of a hand-held mobile phone or device while driving.

Please provide the following information separately for:

2023

2024

2025

1 January to 31 July 2026, or the latest complete full month of data available if July 2026 data is not yet finalised

1. Mobile phone driving offences

Please provide the number of offences recorded for "Use a handheld mobile phone/device while driving a motor vehicle on a road - endorsable offence" (RV86019, or the equivalent offence code used by your force).

2. Method of detection

If the method or source by which the offences in Question 1 were detected is centrally recorded, please provide a breakdown using the categories held by your force.

Where identifiable within those existing categories, please separately identify offences detected through:

a. directly by police officers, including officer stops or direct observation b. footage or evidence submitted by members of the public, including Operation Snap or an equivalent scheme c. cameras or other automated enforcement technology d. any other recorded method.

If the information is held using different categories, please provide the breakdown in the format in which it is centrally held.

3. Roads or locations with the highest number of offences

If the road or location of the offences in Question 1 is centrally recorded and the highest locations can be identified without a manual review of individual offence records, please provide the five roads or locations with the highest number of offences across the full period 1 January 2023 to 31 July 2026, or the latest complete full month of data available if July 2026 data is not yet finalised, together with the total number of offences recorded at each.

Please disregard this question if identifying the highest locations would require a manual review of individual offence records.

I am seeking information available from centrally searchable records and am not asking for a manual review of individual offence or case records.



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If any of the requested breakdowns cannot be provided exactly as specified but the information is held in a similar readily available format, I would be grateful if you could provide the closest available equivalent and explain how the data is categorised.

If complying with the request in full would exceed the appropriate limit under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act, please provide any elements of the request that can be answered within the limit and advise how the remaining elements could be refined.

Please provide the information in Excel or CSV format where possible.

SP received your request on 27/08/2026 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 4,100 offences of driving whilst using a mobile phone. To determine the method of detection and the roads or locations with the highest number of offences, the record for each offence would require a manual review. 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 5-10 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to between 341 and 683 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 the number of offence of 'use a handheld mobile phone/device while driving a motor vehicle on a road' for each calendar year between 2023 and 31/07/2026.

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

Freedom of Information Request Appeals Procedure



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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

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