

10 September 2026

FOI Ref 23322

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

I write to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please acknowledge this request has been received and provide a response within 20 working days. Thank you in advance for your time.

For each of the last five calendar years, plus the current year to date (i.e. from January 1, 2021, to August 31, 2026), please provide information about any reports, incidents, crimes or investigations involving stem cell treatments, stem cell therapies, stem cell injections, stem cell infusions or stem cell transplants being promoted, sold, administered or sought as a treatment or cure for autism or ADHD.

To locate relevant records, please search crime reports, incident logs and any available Modus Operandi, summary or free-text fields for combinations of the following terms: "autism", "autistic" or "ADHD"; and "stem cell" or "stem cells".

For each case, please tell me:

- The year the matter was recorded
- The offence classification or incident type under which it was recorded
- A brief summary of the allegation, e.g. summarising whether the case involved a child being taken abroad for stem cell treatment (eg by a parent); stem cell treatment being offered or administered within the UK (eg by a doctor or lay person); or another stem-cell-related autism or ADHD treatment scenario.
- The investigation outcome, including whether there was: an arrest; a charge or summons; no further action; or another outcome (please specify where possible).

In addition, for each case recorded, please provide an anonymised copy of the crime report.

If this is too onerous, please focus on the cases where the investigation resulted in an arrest or charge.

If any part of this request is likely to exceed the cost limit, I would be grateful for advice and assistance under section 16 of the Act as to how the request can be refined.

SP received your request on 28/08/2026 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

SP's response to your enquiry is as follows:

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. A search was carried out in accordance with the criteria contained in your request. For the period requested, there have been more than 10,000 matches. To ascertain whether a match related to reports, incidents, crimes or investigations involving stem cell treatments, stem cell therapies, stem cell injections, stem cell infusions or stem cell transplants being promoted, sold, administered or sought as a treatment or cure for autism or ADHD, the record for each such match 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 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to around 1,000 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.

Unfortunately, SP cannot suggest a way in which your request could be simplified or pared down to bring it within the confines of the time and cost threshold.

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



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

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 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