

3 September 2026

FOI Ref 23324

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

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I request information concerning communications or contact between Staffordshire Police and Fedora Investigations / Fedora Investigations (UK) Limited.

Time period: 26 August 2025 to 31 December 2025 inclusive

Please confirm whether Staffordshire Police holds records of:

1. Emails in which any email address ending `@fedorainvestigations.com` appears as the sender, recipient or CC recipient;
2. Meetings or telephone/video calls recorded as involving Fedora Investigations or Fedora Investigations (UK) Limited.

For each of the two categories above, I request only:

- * confirmation whether records are held;
- * the total number of recorded emails, meetings or calls; and
- * for meetings or calls, the date of each interaction and rank(s) of involved police officer(s), if readily retrievable

I do not request:

- * the content of any communications;
- * the names or personal details of any individual representatives of Fedora Investigations;
- * the names of individual police officers;
- * investigative material;
- * operational tactics or security-sensitive information; or
- * information about any specifically named individual.

For clarity, the email element of this request requires only identification of emails where an `@fedorainvestigations.com` address appears in the sender, recipient or CC fields; it does not require a content search for mentions of Fedora Investigations.

This request follows FOI 23171, in which Staffordshire Police confirmed that it did not hold the requested information for the preceding period ending 25 August 2025.

SP received your request on 01/09/2026 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 14(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the request is vexatious.

SP are not providing the information you have requested as SP have determined that the request is vexatious under Section 14(1) Vexatious Requests.

The Information Commissioner's guidance on the subject makes it clear that Section 14(1) may be applied where a request, or its impact on a public authority, cannot be justified.

The key question to consider is whether the request is likely to cause a disproportionate or unjustified level of disruption, irritation or distress based on the impact of the authority, weighed against any evidence about the purpose and value of the request. SP are also entitled to consider the context and history of the request where it is relevant.

SP is treating this request as vexatious because to provide a response to questions on subject matters already submitted on previous FOI requests, or creating requests on the same topic, to which SP has responded, will cause an unjustified and disproportionate burden on SP.

In reaching this decision, the following factors have also been considered:

There has been a pattern of frequent and overlapping requests. In all, there have been 9 such Freedom of Information requests in the last 12 months. 7 of these have been received within the last 2 months. A number of these FOI requests, including this one, have been submitted before SP has had the opportunity to answer the previous requests, such that at one point there were 4 such requests being considered by SP. In so doing, applicant(s) are showing an unreasonable persistence in attempting to open an issue that has already been addressed.

Dealing with these requests has become burdensome to SP. These requests require a considerable amount of time to gather, review and prepare information for disclosure as well as reviewing for the application of exemptions where relevant. This is detracting from the ability of SP to respond to other requesters, as well as on the departments that hold the information sought. The effort to meet these requests is, and will be, so grossly oppressive in terms of the strain on time and resources, that SP cannot reasonably be expected to comply with these requests.

The purpose and value of the request aimed at SP in this context cannot be justified especially considering all the previous and ongoing requests of which this is one.

For the above reasons, SP have concluded that the request is vexatious within the terms of Section 14(1) of the Act and SP will not therefore be providing the information requested. Moreover, please be advised that any further similar requests will also be treated as vexatious and will not receive a response.

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

If you are not content with this response, please contact the Information Commissioner 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