

11 September 2026

FOI Ref 23331

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

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 relating to Registered Sex Offenders and recorded sexual offences against children within Stoke-on-Trent.

I would be grateful if the information could, where possible, be provided using consistent definitions, methodology and geographical boundaries for each period so that the figures can be directly compared.

1. Registered Sex Offenders

Please provide the following information for both 2025 and the current position as at the date this request is processed:

- a) The total number of Registered Sex Offenders (RSOs) recorded as residing within Stoke-on-Trent.
- b) Of those Registered Sex Offenders, the number whose index offence(s) involved a child victim under 18 years of age, where this information is searchable using offence code, offence category, offence description or other structured data fields.

For the 2025 figure, please provide the number as at 31 December 2025, or the nearest available reporting date to 31 December 2025 if an exact year-end figure is not held.

For the current figure, please provide the number as at the date this FOI request is processed.

Please provide the information, if possible, in the following format:

- a) 31 December 2025 / nearest available date

Total Registered Sex Offenders:

RSOs whose index offence(s) involved a child victim:

- b) Current figure

Total Registered Sex Offenders:

RSOs whose index offence(s) involved a child victim:

2. Recorded Sexual Offences Against Children – 2025

Please provide the total number of recorded sexual offences against children, where the victim was under 18 years of age, in Stoke-on-Trent during the calendar year 2025.



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Please cover the period:

1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

Please use the following criteria where applicable:

Recorded date range: 1 January 2025 – 31 December 2025

Crime type: Sexual offences

Location: Stoke-on-Trent

Victim age: All victims aged under 18

Please include all relevant age categories necessary to capture victims aged 0–17 inclusive.

3. Geographical Area

If Staffordshire Police is unable to extract this information specifically for Stoke-on-Trent, please provide the figures for the smallest available police, local authority or other geographical area that covers Stoke-on-Trent, and clearly identify the geographical area used.

If the geographical basis used for Registered Sex Offender data differs from that used for recorded crime data, please identify the geographical area used for each dataset.

If any of the requested information cannot be provided using precisely these criteria, please provide the closest available data and explain any differences in methodology, definitions, reporting dates or geographical boundaries.

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 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 question 1b of this request. There is no way to easily retrieve data from a previous time period on the system used to service this request. There are currently around 2000 records that would need to be

manually checked to establish whether the offence involved a child victim under 18 years of age. 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 3 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to over 100 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.

In order to refine your request, data can be provided for question 1a for the current number of registered sex offenders residing in the Stoke on Trent area. Data can also be provided for question 2 in full.

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

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



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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