



14 September 2026

FOI Ref 23332

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

I would like to amend my request and ask for information relating to recorded crimes only.
For the period 1 April 2020 to the current date, please provide the following information. Please provide the data broken down by calendar year.

If a monthly breakdown is readily available, I would also be grateful if this could be provided.

Q1. Recorded crimes

Please provide the total number of recorded crimes for the following offences:

- Deliver a thing knowing or believing it to be a counterfeit currency note – Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981 (CJS Offence Code FC81024; Home Office Classification 061/25)
- Deliver a thing knowing or believing it to be a counterfeit currency note with intent – Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981 (CJS Offence Code FC81039; Home Office Classification 061/25)
- Have custody or control of a thing designed to make a counterfeit note – Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981 (CJS Offence Code FC81033; Home Office Classification 061/27)
- Make a counterfeit currency note with intent – Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981 (CJS Offence Code FC81015; Home Office Classification 061/24)
- Make a counterfeit currency note – Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981 (CJS Offence Code FC81017; Home Office Classification 061/24)

Q2. Outcomes

For each offence listed above, please provide the number of cases resulting in each recorded outcome category, including:

- No Further Action (NFA)
- Charge/Summons
- Community Resolution
- Caution
- Outcome 15
- Outcome 16
- Any other recorded outcome categories

Q3. Guidance

Please provide copies of, or links to, any current guidance, policy documents, operational instructions, training materials, or other material available to officers or staff regarding:

- The identification of counterfeit currency;
- The recording and investigation of counterfeit currency offences; and
- Procedures to be followed when counterfeit notes are seized or reported.
- This request forms part of a BBC investigation into counterfeit £20 notes being used across England.

If any part of this request is likely to exceed the appropriate cost limit, please provide any information that can be supplied within the limit and advise how the remainder of the request may be further refined.

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:

SP holds/does not hold the requested information.

For the period 1 April 2020 to the current date, please provide the following information. Please provide the data broken down by calendar year.

If a monthly breakdown is readily available, I would also be grateful if this could be provided.

- **Q1. Recorded crimes**
Please provide the total number of recorded crimes for the following offences:
Deliver a thing knowing or believing it to be a counterfeit currency note – Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981 (CJS Offence Code FC81024; Home Office Classification 061/25)
Deliver a thing knowing or believing it to be a counterfeit currency note with intent – Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981 (CJS Offence Code FC81039; Home Office Classification 061/25)
Have custody or control of a thing designed to make a counterfeit note – Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981 (CJS Offence Code FC81033; Home Office Classification 061/27)
Make a counterfeit currency note with intent – Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981 (CJS Offence Code FC81015; Home Office Classification 061/24)
Make a counterfeit currency note – Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981 (CJS Offence Code FC81017; Home Office Classification 061/24) – **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 23332 Refinement of FOI 23164 Counterfeit Notes Data.xlsx'.**
- **Q2. Outcomes**
For each offence listed above, please provide the number of cases resulting in each recorded outcome category, including:
No Further Action (NFA)
Charge/Summons
Community Resolution
Caution
Outcome 15
Outcome 16
Any other recorded outcome categories – **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 23332 Refinement of FOI 23164 Counterfeit Notes Data.xlsx'.**
- **Q3. Guidance**
Please provide copies of, or links to, any current guidance, policy documents, operational instructions, training materials, or other material available to officers or staff regarding:
The identification of counterfeit currency;
The recording and investigation of counterfeit currency offences; and
Procedures to be followed when counterfeit notes are seized or reported. – **Withheld.**

Please note that there are several offences that are still being investigated so with regard to these cases we are citing Section 30(1)(a)(b) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Investigations conducted by Public Authorities.

The following exemption has been applied:

In accordance with Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, this letter represents a refusal notice for parts of this particular request.

- Section 30(1)(a)(b) Criminal Investigations

Section 30 is qualified and class based and, as such, we are required to apply the public interest test.

- Section 31 (1)(a)(b) Law Enforcement

Information is exempt from disclosure under S31(1)(a)(b) where the release of Information would, or would be likely to, prejudice the prevention and detection of crime and/ or the apprehension or prosecution of offenders. This exemption is qualified and prejudice-based and, as such, we are required to evidence the harm in disclosure and apply the public interest test.

Harm:

Disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 is considered to be a release to the world at large and not only to the person requesting the information. Whilst not questioning an applicant's motives for requesting the information, due to the information being accessible to all, consideration has to be given to the information being seen by individuals who are involved in criminal activity.

Disclosure of policing tactics and the tools at the police's disposal, specifically procedures and tactics regarding counterfeit currency crimes, which are not in the public domain will mean that those members of the public who are committing crimes and pose a risk to the public, would be able to formulate ways to circumvent the tactics and tools used. The tactics, if disclosed, will become less effective and will mean that the police are not able to detect and prevent crime, apprehend or prosecute offenders or to administer justice for the wider community.

The prevention and detection of crime is the foundation upon which policing is built and the police have a clear responsibility to prevent crime, arrest those responsible for committing crime and those who plan to commit crime. However, there is also a duty of care to the public at large. The UK Police Service has a positive undertaking to protect the public from harm and that duty of care to all involved, must be the overriding consideration.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring disclosure under Section 30(1)(a)(b)

Disclosure of the information would improve the public's knowledge and understanding of the investigatory process and, as all police investigations are publicly funded, would show how public funds are being spent.

Factors favouring non-disclosure under Section 30(1)(a)(b)

Disclosure of the requested information would prejudice how investigations are carried out in the future. SP is charged with enforcing the law, preventing and detecting crime and protecting the communities SP serves. Any release of information relating to ongoing investigations could prejudice and undermine those investigations. The prevention and detection of such matters could therefore be hindered and therefore

risk interference with evidence, which could have detrimental impact on future investigations. In addition, the right to a fair trial could be undermined.

Factors favouring disclosure under Section 31(1)(a)(b)

The information requested would be of interest to the public, namely, to provide reassurance and information in relation to how SP approach and deal with these specific crimes. Where public funds are being spent, there is a public interest in accountability and justifying the use of public money. Disclosure of the requested information would enable the public to assess whether the force is appropriately taking steps to help reduce crime captured by this request.

Factors favouring non-disclosure under Section 31(1)(a)(b)

Disclosure of information that undermines the operational integrity of law enforcement capabilities is highly likely to have an adverse impact on public safety and a negative effect on law enforcement generally. To provide the requested information would allow those with mal intent to alter their behaviours to evade detection in line with processes and enforcement deployed by SP to assist investigating such serious crimes. This risk to public safety cannot be said to be in the public interest. Where the current or future law enforcement role of the force may be compromised by the release of information, the effectiveness of the force will be reduced.

Balance test

Disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act is a release of information to the world in general and not an individual applicant. Having considered the public interest factors SP are required to determine whether on balance the factors favouring disclosure outweigh those which are against disclosure. It is SP's view that the factors favouring disclosure do not outweigh those which favour non-disclosure.

Please be advised that 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

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, taking into account 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