

29 September 2026

FOI Ref 23336

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

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide the following recorded information concerning prescribed medical cannabis and the force's participation in Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders.

1. Copies of guidance, training materials, briefing notes or operational instructions available to the Road Crime Team on 1 September 2026 concerning:

- cannabis-based products for medicinal use;
- sections 4 and 5A of the Road Traffic Act 1988;
- the section 5A statutory medical defence;
- distinguishing THC detection from impairment;
- verifying prescriptions; and
- carrying or storing prescribed cannabis.

2. Records showing:

- when Staffordshire Police received the NPCC-approved APCDLO guidance, Medicinal Cannabis and the Police – Guidance for Officers and Staff;
- when and how it was distributed to the Road Crime Team; and
- the number of Road Crime Team officers who had completed relevant training by 1 September 2026. Names are not required.

3. The filming agreement, memorandum of understanding or equivalent agreement between Staffordshire Police and Purple Productions, Objective Media Group or Channel 5 for the series filmed between September and December 2025. This may be limited to provisions covering editorial review, factual accuracy, corrections, complaints, officer conduct and participant welfare.

4. Any force-held correspondence, factual-checking record, legal review or learning record specifically concerning the medical cannabis segment involving PC Ed Clarke, collar number 26450, broadcast on 1 September 2026. Please include records concerning:

- the statutory medical defence;
- the patient's offer to show prescription evidence;
- the statement that prescribed cannabis should be kept at home;
- the no-further-action outcome;
- the DVLA referral; and
- Channel 5's description, "DRUG USER WHO THINKS THEY'RE ABOVE THE LAW".

For this part, please search the relevant Corporate Communications, Road Crime Team, Legal Services and operational-learning records. I do not seek the patient's identity, medical information, vehicle registration or other personal data.

5. Copies of current force policy or guidance governing:

- referrals to DVLA where prescribed cannabis is identified but no drug-driving action is taken; and
- the creation, review, retention and removal of cannabis-related vehicle intelligence or ANPR markers where lawful prescribed use has been established.

Please provide the information electronically. Personal data may be redacted. If one part would exceed the appropriate cost limit, please answer the remaining parts and advise how that part could be narrowed.



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For context, the published report is available here:

<https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fthereasonableadjustment.co.uk%2F2026%2F09%2F01%2Fpc-ed-clarke-26450-staffordshire-police-medical-cannabis%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cfoi%40staffordshire.police.uk%7C9f06f06e17b742fe2c5908df087bc5a6%7Cd492250406c0431d8eca67087dea03c8%7C0%7C1%7C639238999853048761%7CUnknown%7CTWfPbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOilwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoITWfPbClslldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C60000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=LAfwH1%2BX5BVeL9HiPaRaG5R9jOb28AtxN7zzV%2BbUN%2BA%3D&reserved=0>

SP received your request on 02/09/2026 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

SP's response to your enquiry is as follows:

SP holds some of the requested information.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide the following recorded information concerning prescribed medical cannabis and the force's participation in Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders.

1. Copies of guidance, training materials, briefing notes or operational instructions available to the Road Crime Team on 1 September 2026 concerning:

- cannabis-based products for medicinal use;
- sections 4 and 5A of the Road Traffic Act 1988;
- the section 5A statutory medical defence;
- distinguishing THC detection from impairment;
- verifying prescriptions; and
- carrying or storing prescribed cannabis.

- **Withheld: Please see the below exemption.**

2. Records showing:

- when Staffordshire Police received the NPCC-approved APCDLO guidance, Medicinal Cannabis and the Police – Guidance for Officers and Staff;

- **Disclosed: 25th November 2025**

- when and how it was distributed to the Road Crime Team; and
- the number of Road Crime Team officers who had completed relevant training by 1 September 2026. Names are not required.

- **Disclosed: The guidance was circulated internally to all frontline officers via briefings / e-mail. SP cannot give a date for this as it isn't recorded.**

3. The filming agreement, memorandum of understanding or equivalent agreement between Staffordshire Police and Purple Productions, Objective Media Group or Channel 5 for the series filmed between September and December 2025. This may be limited to provisions covering editorial review, factual accuracy, corrections, complaints, officer conduct and participant welfare.

- **Withheld: Please see the below exemption.**

4. Any force-held correspondence, factual-checking record, legal review or learning record specifically concerning the medical cannabis segment involving PC Ed Clarke, collar number 26450, broadcast on 1 September 2026. Please include records concerning:



- the statutory medical defence;
- the patient's offer to show prescription evidence;
- the statement that prescribed cannabis should be kept at home;
- the no-further-action outcome;
- the DVLA referral; and
- Channel 5's description, "DRUG USER WHO THINKS THEY'RE ABOVE THE LAW".

For this part, please search the relevant Corporate Communications, Road Crime Team, Legal Services and operational-learning records. I do not seek the patient's identity, medical information, vehicle registration or other personal data.

- No information Held

5. Copies of current force policy or guidance governing:

- (i) referrals to DVLA where prescribed cannabis is identified but no drug-driving action is taken; and
- No information held.**

- (ii) the creation, review, retention and removal of cannabis-related vehicle intelligence or ANPR markers where lawful prescribed use has been established.

- No information held.

The following exemptions have 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 43(2) Commercial Interests

This is a prejudice based qualified exemption which means there is a requirement to provide evidence of harm, and a public interest test needs to be considered.

Harm:

The information relating to the filming agreement between Staffordshire Police and Objective Media Group for the series filmed between September and December 2025, if released into the public domain, would harm SP's negotiating position with regards to future contracts for equipment or services. There are commercially confidential clauses within the agreement which are not permitted to be shared to the wider public.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring disclosure under Section 43(2)

Disclosure of the requested information would allow the public to be aware of how public funds are spent or allocated and thereby would provide transparency and accountability, showing that funds from the public purse are used appropriately and proportionally.

Factors favouring non-disclosure under Section 43(2)

Through disclosure of the requested information, SP would find that its negotiating position would be greatly impaired through the release of details that would not only likely be prejudicial to SP but also to

Objective Media Group. Releasing this information would be expected to have a detrimental effect on their ability to be competitive in the future and would be exceedingly likely to deter further enterprises submitting offers for tender in the future. This then would impede SP obtaining the most competitive or appropriate services in the future and negatively impact upon the public purse.

Balance test

It is the responsibility of SP, when dealing with commercial businesses, to not only protect the commercial interest of the business but also that of SP. Commercial interests must be protected so that the best possible value for money is obtained through open competition, both for businesses and SP. This would not be achieved if full details were to be made available to the market.

Although the use of public funds must be open and transparent, SP is accountable for the money that it spends and utilises and if to release the information means the force is unable to negotiate future tendering and have the ability to secure value for money due to business relationships having been impaired, then this would not be in the public interest.

Having considered the public interest test factors, we are required to determine whether, on balance, the factors favouring disclosure outweigh those which are against disclosure. It is our view that the factors favouring disclosure do not outweigh those which favour withholding the details. Therefore, SP declines to provide the information for the reasons stated above.

- Section 21(1) - Information reasonably accessible by other means.

Section 21 is an absolute, class-based exemption and as such there is no requirement to quantify the harm that may arise from the disclosure, nor is there a requirement to perform a Public Interest Test.

Advice and assistance

To comply with the obligations of SP under Section 16 of the Act, the obligation to provide advice and assistance, please find below links to the information requested in question 1.

- [Medicinal-cannabis-guidance-2025.pdf.PDF](#)

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



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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