



29 September 2026

FOI Ref 23357

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

This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, concerning data held by your Professional Standards Department. I do not seek any information about identifiable individuals; counts and distributions only are requested.

For financial years 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26 (and, if within the cost limit, 2021-22 and 2022-23 also — see the note below), broken down by year:

1. The number of misconduct and gross misconduct investigations concluded, split by severity assessment.
2. The duration of those investigations, from the date of severity assessment to the date of conclusion, expressed as a banded distribution: 0–6 months, over 6 and up to 12 months, over 12 and up to 24 months, over 24 months. Please provide the bands rather than, or in addition to, an average — the distribution is the substance of this item.
3. The same banded distribution for investigations that were live and not concluded at the end of each financial year, measuring the age of the investigation at that date from the date of severity assessment (or the nearest equivalent date held).
4. The number and proportion of concluded investigations resulting in a finding of no case to answer, and the number resulting in each other outcome category held.
5. The number of officers suspended, and the duration of suspensions as a banded distribution using the same bands as item 2.
6. The number of complainants who lodged five or more complaints within any 24-month period, and the proportion of all complaints recorded that those complainants accounted for. Counts only are sought; no information about the identity or characteristics of any complainant is requested.

The core of this request is the three most recent financial years, 2023-24 to 2025-26. If the two earlier years, 2021-22 and 2022-23, can also be included within the appropriate cost limit, please include them; if they cannot, please supply the three core years — the earlier years are not a condition of this request and should not be treated as grounds for refusing it. Where a change of records system limits what is held for any year, please supply the years that are available and state which years are affected.

SP received your request on 07/09/2026 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 parts of this request. With regards to question 3, each case would need to be manually checked to establish whether the case was still live at the end of each financial year. Manual checks would also need to be carried out to establish how long it had been open for and whether it has fallen into more than one financial year. With regards to question 6, although we can establish how many people have made more than five complaints, each one would have to be manually checked to establish whether they were made in a 24-month period. To extract this data would therefore require a very labour-intensive manual trawl through each record.

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 questions 1, 2, 4 and 5 in full for the financial years 2021/22 to 2025/26. Data can be provided for question 6 for the number of complainants who lodged five or more complaints in the whole time frame. Please note that we do not hold proportions as recorded information.

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

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, 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