



STAFFORDSHIRE  
**POLICE**

9 September 2026

FOI Ref 23360

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

Please provide data for the period of **1 January 2021 and 31 December 2025 relating to residential burglaries** where a **key safe, key lockbox, external key box or similar device** was recorded as being involved in the **attempted or completed burglary**.

For the purposes of this request, I am interested in incidents where:

- The offender **damaged, tampered with or forced open a key safe** to obtain a key
- The offender **removed, stole or otherwise gained access to a key safe** in order to obtain a key
- The offender **obtained a key from a key safe and used it, or attempted to use it, to gain entry to the property**
- The **key safe itself was targeted or tampered with as part of an attempted or completed burglary**, regardless of whether the offender ultimately gained entry to the property.

Where possible, please provide the figures broken down by calendar year:

- 2021
- 2022
- 2023
- 2024
- 2025

For the purposes of this request, "key safe/lockbox" refers to an externally located box or safe used to store a key to a property, including devices described as a key safe, key lockbox, external key box or similar.

If obtaining this information isn't possible, please provide advice and assistance on how we can refine this request.

Let me know if you need any additional information or clarification from me.

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 this request. For the period requested, there have been in excess of 13,400 offences of residential burglary. To ascertain whether a key safe, key lockbox, external key box or similar device was recorded as being involved in the attempted or completed burglary, the record for each offence would require a manual review. 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 670 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.

If your request was amended, SP would be able to provide the number of attempted or completed residential burglaries for each year between 2021 and 2025.

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](mailto: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 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