



11 September 2026

FOI Ref 23370

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

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide data relating to offences of non-fatal strangulation and suffocation (Home Office offence code 8/77 or equivalent classification used by your force).

Please provide the following information for the period 1 January 2023 to the most recent date for which complete data is available.

1. Recorded offences

For each calendar year (2023, 2024, 2025 and year-to-date 2026), please provide:

- Total number of recorded non-fatal strangulation and suffocation offences.

2. Victim demographics

For the same period, please provide the number of offences broken down by:

- Victim sex/gender
- Victim age group
- Victim ethnicity

Please provide counts rather than individual-level data.

3. Suspect demographics

For the same period, please provide the number of identified suspects broken down by:

- Sex/gender
- Age group
- Ethnicity

4. Domestic abuse

Please provide:

- Number of offences flagged as domestic abuse-related.
- Number not flagged as domestic abuse-related.

5. Outcomes

Please provide the final recorded outcome for offences recorded during the period, including counts for:

- Charged/summonsed
- Caution
- Community resolution
- Evidential difficulties
- Victim does not support action
- Investigation complete with no suspect identified
- Under investigation
- Any other outcome categories used by the force

6. Repeat victims

Where recorded and retrievable within cost limits, please provide:



- Number of unique victims.
- Number of victims linked to two or more recorded non-fatal strangulation offences during the period.

7. Children

Please provide:

- Number of victims aged under 18.
- Number of suspects aged under 18.

SP received your request on 07/10/2026 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

SP's response to your enquiry is as follows:

SP holds the requested information.

Please provide the following information for the period 1 January 2023 to the most recent date for which complete data is available.

1. Recorded offences

For each calendar year (2023, 2024, 2025 and year-to-date 2026), please provide:

- Total number of recorded non-fatal strangulation and suffocation offences.
– **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 23370 Non-Fatal Strangulation Offences Data'.**

2. Victim demographics

For the same period, please provide the number of offences broken down by:

- Victim sex/gender
- Victim age group
- Victim ethnicity

Please provide counts rather than individual-level data.

– **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 23370 Non-Fatal Strangulation Offences Data'.**

3. Suspect demographics

For the same period, please provide the number of identified suspects broken down by:

- Sex/gender
- Age group
- Ethnicity

– **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 23370 Non-Fatal Strangulation Offences Data'.**

4. Domestic abuse

Please provide:

- Number of offences flagged as domestic abuse-related.
- Number not flagged as domestic abuse-related.
- **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 23370 Non-Fatal Strangulation Offences Data'.**



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5. Outcomes

Please provide the final recorded outcome for offences recorded during the period, including counts for:

- Charged/summonsed
- Caution
- Community resolution
- Evidential difficulties
- Victim does not support action
- Investigation complete with no suspect identified
- Under investigation
- Any other outcome categories used by the force
 - **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 23370 Non-Fatal Strangulation Offences Data'.**

6. Repeat victims

Where recorded and retrievable within cost limits, please provide:

- Number of unique victims.
- Number of victims linked to two or more recorded non-fatal strangulation offences during the period.
 - **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 23370 Non-Fatal Strangulation Offences Data'.**

7. Children

Please provide:

- Number of victims aged under 18.
- Number of suspects aged under 18.
 - **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 23370 Non-Fatal Strangulation Offences Data'.**

This data has been extracted from our Crime/Occurrence recording system for the HO code 08/77 up to 9th September 2026. This data has then been broken down by gender and self-defined ethnicity for both victim and suspect/offender. This dataset may not match due to multiple ethnicities recorded, where a victim or suspect/offender identifies under multiple ethnicities. Furthermore, please note some occurrences may have more than one victim involved.

Please note that there are 300 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 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.

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.

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.

This data has been provided to the best of the ability of SP, subject to the limitation of current recording protocols and systems and software. Additional offences may have been recorded during these timescales but are awaiting finalisation and input onto these systems and would not be present within this dataset.

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that data is extracted from multiple sources, developed for specific policing purposes, for which data extraction methods have not been specifically designed to directly correlate with the terminology of this request. Therefore, the data presented is subject to the inaccuracies and idiosyncrasies inherent in any large-scale recording system. Consequently, care should be taken in the interpretation and presentation of this data, to not misrepresent the whole or any part of the data disclosed.

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:



STAFFORDSHIRE
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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 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