

10 September 2026

FOI Ref 23372

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

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I would be grateful if you could provide data for the period 1 January 2018 to 31 August 2026 relating to the following offences:

1. Encouraging or assisting serious self-harm, as introduced by the Online Safety Act 2023.
2. Section 2 of the Suicide Act 1961 (encouraging or assisting suicide).

Requested Information

For each of the above offences, please provide annual figures for the period specified, broken down by:

- * Number of individuals cautioned
- * Number of individuals charged
- * Number of individuals prosecuted (i.e., cases brought before a court)
- * Number of convictions secured (if held by your organisation)

Demographic Breakdown

Where available, please also provide demographic information for both victims and suspected perpetrators, broken down as follows:

Victims

- * Gender
- * Age (either exact age or age bands, depending on what is held)

Perpetrators / Suspects

- * Gender
- * Age (either exact age or age bands)

If demographic data is not held for all stages (e.g., cautions vs. prosecutions), please provide it for any stage where it is recorded.

If your organisation does not hold some or all of the requested information, please confirm this and, where possible, direct me to the appropriate body.

Thank you for your assistance. I look forward to your response within the statutory timeframe.

SP received your request on 10/09/2026 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.

- I would be grateful if you could provide data for the period 1 January 2018 to 31 August 2026 relating to the following offences:
 1. Encouraging or assisting serious self-harm, as introduced by the Online Safety Act 2023.
 2. Section 2 of the Suicide Act 1961 (encouraging or assisting suicide). – **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 23372 Self-Harm and Suicide Data.xlsx'.**

Requested Information



- For each of the above offences, please provide annual figures for the period specified, broken down by:
 - * Number of individuals cautioned – **Disclosed, nil.**
 - * Number of individuals charged – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 23372 Self-Harm and Suicide Data.xlsx'.**
 - * Number of individuals prosecuted (i.e., cases brought before a court) – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 23372 Self-Harm and Suicide Data.xlsx'.**
 - * Number of convictions secured (if held by your organisation) – **No information held.**
- Demographic Breakdown
Where available, please also provide demographic information for both victims and suspected perpetrators, broken down as follows:
Victims
 - * Gender
 - * Age (either exact age or age bands, depending on what is held)Perpetrators / Suspects
 - * Gender
 - * Age (either exact age or age bands) – **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 23372 Self-Harm and Suicide Data.xlsx'.**

Please note that there are 10 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.

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.

Advice and assistance

Section 16 of the Act places an obligation upon the Authority to provide advice and assistance, in order to comply with this obligation please see below.

Staffordshire Police do not hold conviction data. We would advise that you approach the Government HM Courts & Tribunals service website.

Please find below links to previously disclosed HMCTS data and details upon how to submit a further Freedom of Information request to the Government HM Courts and Tribunals Service for this information.

Make an FOI request - [how to make a request](#).

Check our previous releases to see if we've already answered your question - [our previous releases](#)

Make a new request by using the details below.

FOI requests

Disclosure Team

Postal Point 10.38, Floor 10

102 Petty France

London

SW1H 9AJ

United Kingdom

Email

data.access@justice.gov.uk

All Freedom of Information request responses are published on the SP website although personal details are not included.



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

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 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