

21 September 2026

FOI Ref 23389

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

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

I would like to obtain copies of all public-facing news content published by the Staffordshire Police between 1 January 2020 and 31 December 2025, inclusive. This includes news articles, news releases, press/media releases, media statements, public appeals, and similar content published by the constabulary for communication to the public or media.

For each item, I would ideally like the full text together with its title, publication date, original URL (where available), and any associated metadata routinely held with the item.

Preferred means and format of communication:

In accordance with section 11 of the FOIA, I would prefer to receive the requested information electronically and in bulk. Given the volume of material, my preferred format would be one ZIP file (or downloadable ZIP link) for each calendar year from 2020 to 2025, containing the electronic records in the format in which they are held.

I am specifically requesting copies of the information, rather than a list of links or directions to the constabulary's website or news archive. I am not asking the constabulary to create a new database or to undertake substantive reorganisation of the information. If the requested information is held electronically, I would be grateful if it could be provided electronically in the manner requested above where reasonably practicable.

If the full text cannot be provided, please provide the information that can reasonably be disclosed, including at minimum the article title, publication date and URL. Furthermore, if complying with the request would exceed the appropriate cost limit, please advise how the request could be narrowed or divided into smaller requests. Finally, if any information is withheld, please specify the exemption(s) relied upon.

SP received your request on 14/09/2026 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 are almost 24,500 records. To ascertain whether the record related to public-facing news content published by the Staffordshire Police, each record 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 5 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to over 2,000 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.

Unfortunately, SP cannot suggest a way in which your request could be simplified or pared down to bring it within the confines of the time and cost threshold.

However, the following link provides access to the 'News Search' facility of SP:

[News search | Staffordshire Police](#)

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

Or by Post to:

Information Access Team
Staffordshire Police HQ
PO Box 3167
Stafford
ST16 9JZ



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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