

29 September 2026

FOI Ref 23415

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

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request information about speeding offences detected by Staffordshire Police during the period 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2025.

For each of the following posted speed limits - 20 mph, 30 mph, 40 mph, 50 mph, 60 mph and 70 mph - please provide:

The lowest vehicle speed recorded at which enforcement action was taken for exceeding that particular speed limit.

The corresponding speed limit and recorded speed (for example, 31 mph in a 30 mph limit).

The number of such cases, if more than one vehicle was recorded at the lowest speed.

The type of enforcement action taken in each case, for example:

Notice of Intended Prosecution (NIP);

Fixed Penalty Notice;

speed awareness course;

summons/prosecution; or

other formal enforcement action.

Where available, the method by which the offence was detected (for example, fixed camera, average-speed camera, mobile camera or police officer).

I am specifically interested in the lowest actual recorded speeds at which enforcement action was taken, rather than the force's normal enforcement threshold or the NPCC recommended enforcement threshold.

For example, if a driver was formally penalised or prosecuted for travelling at 31 mph in a 30 mph limit, I would like this to be included.

If your records distinguish between the speed recorded by the enforcement device and the speed used for enforcement after any applicable adjustment, please provide both figures.

I am not requesting any personal data, such as names, addresses, vehicle registration numbers or other information that could identify an individual.

If the information is not held in precisely this format, please provide the closest available data and explain how it differs from the information requested.

Please provide the response in electronic format, preferably as a spreadsheet or table.

SP received your request on 21/09/2026 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.

- Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request information about speeding offences detected by Staffordshire Police during the period 1 January 2021 to 31 December 2025.
- For each of the following posted speed limits - 20 mph, 30 mph, 40 mph, 50 mph, 60 mph and 70 mph - please provide:
- The lowest vehicle speed recorded at which enforcement action was taken for exceeding that particular speed limit.
- The corresponding speed limit and recorded speed (for example, 31 mph in a 30 mph limit).
- The number of such cases, if more than one vehicle was recorded at the lowest speed.
- The type of enforcement action taken in each case, for example:
 - Notice of Intended Prosecution (NIP);
 - Fixed Penalty Notice;
 - speed awareness course;
 - summons/prosecution; or
 - other formal enforcement action.
- Where available, the method by which the offence was detected (for example, fixed camera, average-speed camera, mobile camera or police officer).
- **Withheld, please see section 31 and 38 exemptions below.**

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

The following exemptions have 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 31(1)(a)(b) Law Enforcement

Information is exempt from disclosure under section 31(1)(a)(b) where the release of Information would, or would likely to, prejudice the prevention and detection of crime and/or the apprehension or prosecution of offenders.

- Section 38(1)(a)(b) Health and Safety

Information is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to (a) endanger the physical or mental health of any individual, or (b) endanger the safety of any individual.

These exemptions are qualified and prejudice-based and, as such, we are required to evidence the harm in disclosure and apply the public interest test.

Harm

To provide details such as the lowest speeds captured by speed cameras, could potentially put the safety of drivers and other road users at a significantly increased risk of harm by members of the public who choose not to abide by the speed restrictions. Disclosure of the specific speeds recorded by these cameras would enable individuals to speed without possibly getting caught which would increase the danger to the public significantly. By releasing the lowest recorded speeds captured could undermine the effectiveness of speed enforcement, assist those seeking to avoid detection and prejudice the prevention and detection of offences. In addition, any reduction in the deterrent effect of enforcement may encourage non-compliance with speed limits, increasing the risk of road traffic collisions and endangering the safety of road users and the wider public.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring disclosure under Section 31(1)(a)(b)

The public are entitled to know how public funds are spent and how the use of speed cameras can have an effect on drivers using the road. Disclosure of the information would show that SP supports transparency and accountability, also showing that appropriate measures are being taken to improve public safety and reduce offending.

Factors favouring non-disclosure under Section 31(1)(a)(b)

Any release of information under the FOI Act is a disclosure to the world, not just to an individual applicant. Safety cameras are used to protect the community that we serve and deter motorists from exceeding the speed limit. Disclosure would allow the public to take action to frustrate the operational tactics adopted to enforce road traffic law and this would undermine the police's key function of preventing and detecting crime. Disclosure may also encourage motorists to fail to adhere to the speed limit and would put lives at risk. Disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice substantially the apprehension or prosecution of offenders and interfere with law enforcement. Therefore, this could lead to an increase in road traffic collisions.

Factors favouring disclosure under Section 38(1)(a)(b)

In addition to the basic premise of being open and transparent, disclosure of the details regarding specific speed restrictions would allow for greater public awareness around these cameras used by SP and inform public debate upon how public funds are being spent.

Factors favouring non-disclosure under Section 38(1)(a)(b)

The details of the speeding thresholds that are set are kept confidential for safety reasons; this is to ensure the safety and security of other road users. Disclosure of detailed information regarding these cameras and thresholds could cause harm and unnecessarily place the wellbeing of drivers and other road users at significant risk.

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 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