



29 September 2026

FOI Ref 23442

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

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide the following for each calendar year 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025:

1. The number of incidents in which an officer discharged a Taser/CED at an animal.
2. For each incident, where electronically recorded, please provide:
 - the type/species of animal involved;
 - for dogs, the breed/type if recorded;
 - whether the animal was injured or killed;
 - any brief incident description or summary held electronically, for example whether the animal was attacking a person, another animal, a police officer, or was loose in a road/public place.

By "discharged", I mean fired at or directly applied to the animal, rather than merely drawn, aimed or red-dotted.

If providing any of the incident-level details above would require manual review and engage Section 12, please omit those elements and provide the annual totals and any other information that can be retrieved electronically within the cost limit.

If your system only records a broader category such as "animal", please provide the information in the form in which it is held.

Spreadsheet format preferred where possible.

SP received your request on 29/09/2026 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.

1. The number of incidents in which an officer discharged a Taser/CED at an animal.
 - **Disclosed: Nil.**
2. For each incident, where electronically recorded, please provide:
 - the type/species of animal involved;
 - for dogs, the breed/type if recorded;
 - whether the animal was injured or killed;
 - any brief incident description or summary held electronically, for example whether the animal was attacking a person, another animal, a police officer, or was loose in a road/public place.
 - **Not applicable.**

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. A search has been made of the crime recording system used by SP to record the requested data. This returned nearly 800 times when a TASER had been used over the period. A 'Use of Force Details' qualifier was filtered for both animals and dogs. This gave a nil return. An 'animal type' qualifier was used independently as part of the query. This also gave a nil return.

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:

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