



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

Our Ref: FOI 23363
Your Ref: FOI 22574
Date: 17th September 2026

Internal Review

Re: Request for internal review of response to application for information under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, original request first notified to Staffordshire Police on 23rd February 2026.

Staffordshire Police (SP) refer to the above request which is copied below:

Why are female Staffordshire Police officers issued with (traditionally "male") custodian helmets for public order duties? I agree that it's worthwhile to distribute such PPE equally, and ask this question only because no other force does the same.

You have requested an Internal Review which is copied below:

I'd like to request a review of FOI case #22574 ("Public Order Helmets"), which was left unanswered back in March. May I ask...

- (1) Why are female Staffordshire Police officers issued with custodian helmets for public order duties? Please state the official rationale behind this force-exclusive policy, to explain their use in place of bowler hats and/or flat caps.
- (2) Has the force considered standardising custodian helmets for general use by female officers?
- (3) Are female PSU officers permitted to wear their custodian helmets for other duties?

SP Response

The purpose of an internal review is to ensure the original request was answered correctly. Any new questions should be sent to foi@staffordshire.police.uk as they cannot be addressed as part of the internal review.

This review focuses on your original question submitted on 23rd February 2026. It should also be noted that your internal review request is outside of the acceptable timeframe for submission. In an effort to assist SP will, on this occasion, accept your late request, however this will not be repeated for any future late internal review requests which can be submitted up to 2 months after a response has been received by the applicant.

Upon review of your request SP are of the opinion that the response issued fully answers the terms of your request and also clearly explained why SP does not hold the information. That explanation being; "Please note that the FOI Act 2000 only extends to requests for recorded information. It does not require public authorities to create information to answer questions generally; only if the information is already held in recorded form."



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Please be advised that all FOI requests and response letters are published on the Staffordshire Police website although personal details are not included.

If you are not content with the outcome of the review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner to investigate. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

<https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/foi-and-eir-complaints/foi-and-eir-complaints/>

Information Access Team Management

IAT@staffordshire.police.uk

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