



Our Ref: FOI: 22760
Your Ref: FOI: 22742
Date: 17 April 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 8th April 2026 (22742)

SP refer to the above request which was expressed in the following terms:

I am writing under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request recorded information relating to a reported object on or over the A50 in Staffordshire on 27 February 2025.

This request is separate from any previous correspondence and is focused on identifying whether such a reported event was recorded, and in which systems such information would be held.

Context

I understand that during an incident on this date, an attending officer (captured on body-worn video) stated that an object had been reported as thrown over the carriageway, reportedly originating from Highways or a similar source.

This request does not seek any personal data and is limited to recorded information about the reported object and associated logs.

Request

Please search all relevant systems, including but not limited to:

- * Command and control / incident logging systems (e.g. STORM or equivalent)*
- * Control room call logs and incident records*
- * Any records of communication with National Highways or equivalent agencies*
- * Any other operational systems or logs where such reports may reasonably be expected to be recorded*

and provide the following:



1. Incident records

Any incident logs, call records, or system entries recorded on 27 February 2025 relating to:

- * an object reported as thrown, or
- * an object reported on or over the A50 carriageway

2. Recorded details

For any records identified, please provide:

- * Date and time
- * Description or classification of the object (e.g. debris, obstruction, property, road hazard)
- * Source of the report (e.g. member of public, Highways, patrol)
- * Any recorded outcome (e.g. attended, not attended, removed, not found)

3. Systems searched

Please specify:

- * The systems and databases searched
- * The search methods used (including any keywords, filters, or categories applied, where applicable)

4. Recording practices and retrievability Please confirm:

a) Whether reports from National Highways (or similar agencies) of objects thrown onto or over the A50 would normally be recorded by Staffordshire Police, and in which system(s)

b) Whether such reports would be expected to generate:

- * an incident log
- * a control room entry
- * or any other retrievable record

c) If no information is located for 27 February 2025, please confirm whether:

- * no such report was received, or
- * a report may have been received but is not retrievable via standard search methods, or is only held within free-text or non-searchable fields

5. Duty to assist

If the requested information cannot be located based on the above parameters, please provide reasonable advice and assistance under Section 16 of the Act as to:

- * how such information may be held or recorded
- * whether alternative search terms, systems, or approaches would be required to locate it

Clarification

- * This request is not limited to Road Traffic Collision data
- * It includes non-collision incidents, hazard reports, and calls for service
- * Where information is held in free-text fields, I request reasonable keyword searches (e.g. "object", "thrown", "A50", "debris", "item", "property", "hazard", "dropped")



Format

I am content to receive the information in summary or table form.

Further to the above, SP also note the following comments made within your request for Internal Review:

I am writing to request an internal review of your response to FOI Ref 22742, dated 9 April 2026, in which my request was refused under Section 14(1) (vexatious requests).

I do not agree that Section 14(1) has been correctly applied and ask that the decision be reconsidered for the following reasons:

1. The request is different and not a repeat

My earlier request (FOI Ref 22736) was broad and asked for incidents, logs, or reports relating to objects on the A50. However, your response only provided data about Road Traffic Collisions. This request is materially different. It focuses on a single date (27 February 2025) and seeks to determine whether an object said to have been thrown onto or over the carriageway was recorded in any system, including non-collision records.

It also covers systems not included in the earlier response, such as command and control systems (e.g., STORM), control room logs, and communications with external agencies, particularly Highways, which was mentioned by an attending officer on body-worn video. These areas were not previously addressed and remain unanswered

2. The request has a clear and legitimate purpose

The request aims to clarify whether a road safety incident mentioned by an officer was formally recorded and to understand how such incidents are captured and retrievable within Staffordshire Police systems. This is a matter of public interest because it relates to road safety and transparency in incident recording, helping the public understand how incidents on major roads are logged.

3. The request is proportionate and designed to minimise burden

The request is narrowly scoped to a single date, and includes suggested systems and keywords to assist retrieval. It does not require trawling large datasets or accessing personal data. This represents a reasonable attempt to minimise any burden on the force.

4. The earlier response did not cover this information

The response to FOI Ref 22736 did not include non-collision incidents, control room logs, or communications with external agencies such as Highways. It is therefore inaccurate to say this request has already been answered.

5. Lack of clear explanation for Section 14(1)

Your refusal cites a pattern of requests and burden on the force. However, no clear explanation has been provided as to how this specific, narrowly scoped request would create an unreasonable level of work. Guidance from the Information Commissioner's Office states that each request should be considered on its own merits and not refused simply because similar requests have been made previously.

6. Duty to provide advice and assistance (Section 16)



If parts of the request are difficult to answer, guidance on how to narrow the search or retrieve the information would satisfy the duty to provide advice under Section 16, rather than refusing the request outright.

7. Public interest

Even if there is concern about the volume of requests from the same applicant, this request is narrow, focused, and clearly in the public interest. It seeks information relevant to road safety and transparency in incident recording, and is proportionate to the resources required. Refusing it without considering the public interest undermines the purpose of the Freedom of Information Act.

In light of the above, I ask that the use of Section 14(1) be reconsidered and that my request is processed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

If the request is still refused, please provide a full explanation addressing the points above, including how this specific request meets the test for being considered vexatious.

SP Response:

An Internal Review has been completed and it is the decision of SP that the Section 14 exemption is fully justified and has been correctly applied.

The Information Commissioner's guidance on the subject makes it clear that Section 14 may be applied where a request, or its impact on a public authority, cannot be justified.

The key question to consider is whether the request is likely to cause a disproportionate or unjustified level of disruption, irritation or distress based on the impact of the authority, weighed against any evidence about the purpose and value of the request. SP are also entitled to consider the context and history of the request where it is relevant.

Since 10th May 2025, 7 FOI request have been submitted, all of which relate directly or indirectly to the same topic, an incident on the A50 in Staffordshire on 27th February 2025.

FOI Requests:

21907

21971

21986 IR of 21907

22046 IR of 21971

22736

22742

22760 IR of 22742



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Furthermore, 4 Right of Access requests have also been made about the incident, and it is noted that the Staffordshire Police Professional Standards Department (PSD) have also carried out a thorough investigation after a formal complaint was made.

The constant bombardment of requests and complaints is causing a disproportionate and unjustified level of disruption on SP causing irritation and distress to staff members.

Please be advised that any further similar requests will also be treated as vexatious and will not receive a response.

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/>

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