



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_2023.0974

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 10/11/2023

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2023.0974

On 03/10/2023 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

1. The number of pupils aged 18 and under found in possession of offensive weapons such as knives, pellet guns, hammers etc on school premises (nursery, primary and secondary) in the academic years 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 so far.
2. The above information should be broken down by date/month of incident, age of pupil, and description of the weapon.
3. It should also include what the police response was (arrest, warning etc), and whether the weapon was used to commit another crime, such as assault against a pupil or teacher.

Clarification was sought advising the difference between incident searches and crime searched. Clarification received advising that they would like a search of the crime recording system.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 s1, I can confirm that Gloucestershire Constabulary holds some relevant information.

Police Forces in the United Kingdom are routinely required to provide statistics to government bodies and the recording criteria is set nationally. However, the systems used for recording these figures are not generic, nor are the procedures used locally in capturing the data. It should be noted that for these reasons the figures given relate to information from the specific recording system of Gloucestershire Constabulary and should not be used for comparison purposes with any other response you receive.

Please note that our systems are designed to record information for policing purposes and the investigation of crime and not to extract statistical information. Accordingly whilst we endeavour to extract relevant data within the time limits of the Act, any data supplied is subject to these limitations.

Following receipt of your request, a search of the crime recording system has been conducted for all offences under the Home Office Category of Possession of Other weapons and Possession of Article with Blade or Point, where the location is at a School, whereby the offender/suspect is 18 or under, for the dates of 01/09/2022 – 04/10/2023. This search has included the recorded police outcomes and the MOs of the crimes. The results are as follows:

1. For the academic year of 2022-2023 there have been 17 records.
For the academic year of 2023-2024 so far this is a zero (0) result.

2. In a consolidated response please see the tables below:

A total crimes recorded in 2022-2023

Month and Year	Total
2022	
Sep	1
Oct	1
Nov	1
2023	
Jan	1
Feb	3
Mar	3
May	1
Jun	2
Jul	4
Total	17

A breakdown of age groups

Age Group	Total
0-9	3
10-13	8
14-18	6
Total	17

This has been done due to low numbers to avoid the risk of identification of an individual.

A description of the weapon is from the MO Free text.

Description of Weapon	Total
5inch Kitchen Knife	1
Flip/Folding Knife	3

Lock Knife	2
Metal Nail File	1
Pen Knife	2
Bladed Article	2
30cm Knife	1
Stanley Knife	1
Swiss Army Knife	1
Pumpkin Carving Knife	1
Butter Knife	2
Metal Wire	1
Knife	1
Total	19

Please note that there may be crimes where more than one weapon has been involved.

3. a breakdown of the police outcomes

Police Outcomes	Total
Other Agency	4
Evidential Difficulties – IP Supports – Suspect Identified	5
Evidential Difficulties – IP does not Support – Suspect Identified	2
Youth Diversionary	2
Prosecution Prevented – Offender under age	3
Youth Conditional Caution	1
Total	17

A total of other offences committed with weapon

Other offence committed	Total
Assault on a pupil	1
No Separate Offences	16
Total	17

If you are not satisfied with this response or any actions taken in dealing with your request, you have the right to ask that we review your case under our internal procedure. Please note that a request for an internal review must be made within 20 working days of the response to your original request.

If you decide to request that such a review is undertaken and following this process you

are still unsatisfied, you then have the right to direct your complaint to the Information Commissioner for consideration.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted via the following means:

Website - <https://ico.org.uk/>

Call their helpline - 0303 123 1113

Email - casework@ico.org.uk

Post –

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Disclosure Officer
Gloucestershire Constabulary