



Your reference: N/A

Our reference: FOI_2024_0032

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 15/02/2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_2024_0032

On 09/01/2024 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I am writing to request, under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the following:

1. Can you reveal the number of weapons seized in schools in the following years: 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023
2. Can you also detail the incidents in 2023?
3. What was the most common weapon found each year?

If it is not possible to provide the information requested due to the cost of compliance limits identified in Section 12 of the FOI Act, please provide advice and assistance, under the Section 16 obligations of the Act, as to how I can refine my request.

Clarification was sent requesting if a search of the Crime Recording System or of the Incident Recording System would assist with and answer to your request along with the Home Office Counting Rules and to confirm which offences you would like the search to be conducted for. The clarification also advised that the results can return anyone who has been on a school premises with a weapon and not just a student.

A response was received confirming that a search of the Crime Recording System would assist rather than an incident search.

Further clarification was sent asking to explain what you mean with question 2 of the request where you have asked for the detail of the incidents within 2023?

A further response was received asking to ignore question 2 regarding the details of incidents in 2023 and to proceed as normal.

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, I can confirm that a search of the crime recording system the offences under the following Home Office Offence Category:

Possession of Firearms with intent

Possession of Other Weapons

Possession of Article with Blade or Point

Endangering Life

The MO code of School has been added to the search from 01/01/2018 – 31/12/2023 this has returned 65 results. A manual review of the MO's has then been conducted where the weapon has been seized by the school this has returned 14. The results are as follows:

1. An annual breakdown of weapons seized in schools

Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
Weapons Seized	1	4	4	1	3	1	14

3. A manual review has been conducted to determine the most common weapon found each year. From 2018 – 2023 the most common weapon found was Knife.

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