



Your reference: n/a

Our reference: FOI_24_0158

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Date: 05/03/2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_24_0158

On 07/02/2024 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I would like to know if there has been an increase in the number of minors carrying weapons, the number arrested and charged for carrying weapons and number of victims.

All questions below relate to minors (under 18) only.

Due to the number of attacks (acts of violence) amongst under 18s, I would like to know the following:

For each question, I would like data for each of the following time periods:

January 2021 – December 2021

January 2022 – December 2022

January 2023- December 2023

1. How many minors under the age of 18 have been arrested for possession of a knife blade or pointed article?

If it is within the time/cost limit set by the FOI Act, please provide a break down by age

2. How many minors under the age of 18 have been charged specifically with murder or manslaughter, as a result of a knife blade or pointed article being used?

If it is within the time/cost limit set by the FOI Act, please provide a break down by age

4. What is the age of the youngest detainee to be charged with murder or manslaughter for the years provided?

5. How many minors under the age of 18 have been recorded as being a seriously injured by a minor carrying a blade or sharply pointed article
6. How many minors under the age of 18 have died as a result of seriously injured by a minor carrying a knife or sharply pointed article.

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.

1. The primary function of the Constabulary's Arrest Recording System is to assist the Constabulary in adhering to Code C of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act. As such, its reporting function is limited. The system does not record detentions under specific offences under the Home Office Counting Rules for Recorded crimes; instead it uses Reason for Arrest (RFA) Categories.

I can confirm that there is a specific RFA category of Possess pointed article or blade.

A search has been conducted of authorised detentions from 01/01/2021 to 31/12/2023 whereby the detainee was aged under 18 at the time of the detention and at least one of the RFA Categories was recorded as Possess pointed article or blade.

The results are as follows:

Year	No. of Detentions
2021	8
2022	14
2023	17
Total	39

The ages at the time of the detentions were as follows:

Ages	No of Detentions
13	1
14	6
15	7
16	16

17	9
Total	39

2. I can confirm that a search has been conducted of crimes recorded from 01/01/2021 to 31/12/2023 whereby the offence was that of Murder, the Police Outcome was charged/summons, the offender was aged under 18 at the time of the offence and the Knife Crime tag had been added to the record. The result of this search was 2 crimes recorded over the time period.
4. I can confirm that the custody recording system has an RFA category of Murder/Attempt murder. A Search has been conducted of authorised detentions recorded from 01/01/2021 to 31/12/2023 whereby the detainee was aged under 18 at the time of the detention and at least 1 of the RFA categories was recorded as Murder/attempt murder. The age of the youngest detainee was 15 years.
5. A search has been conducted of crimes recorded from 01/01/2021 to 31/12/2023 whereby the offence sub class of Violence with Injury was recorded, both the victim and offender were under 18 at the time of the offence and the knife crime tag had been added to the record. The results are as follows:

Year	No. of Victims
2021	3
2022	3
2023	1
Total	7

6. I can confirm that a search has been conducted of crimes recorded from 01/01/2021 to 31/12/2023 whereby the offence was that of Murder and both the victim and offender were under 18 at the time of the offence. The result was 2 crimes over the time period.

Please note that the Custody and Crime systems do not correlate statistically. Even though it's possible to follow an individual's record from custody through to a crime being recorded and any subsequent referral to Court, it's not possible to provide correlated statistics.

Although there is a legitimate interest in disclosing information surrounding the statistics of young people being involved in knife crime, any such disclosure cannot override the interests or fundamental rights and freedoms of the individuals involved.

Any further information or correlation of the information provided in each answer above, would likely identify individuals or disclose personal information. Such information is therefore exempt under Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Gloucestershire Constabulary, when refusing to provide information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which: (a) states the fact, (b) specifies the exemption in question and (c) states (if not otherwise apparent) why the exemption applies.

With regard to the disclosure of any further information, the following exemption applies:

Section 40(2) Personal Information

Section 40(2) applies to third party personal data. This would not be released under the Freedom of Information Act unless there is a strong public interest. The disclosure of any information which could lead to the identification of an individual would breach the Data Protection Principles contained within the Data Protection Act 2018, namely the first principle which states that personal data shall be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to individuals

This exemption is absolute and class based therefore I am not required to apply either the public interest test or harm test in disclosure.

In accordance with the Act, this letter represents a Refusal Notice for this part of your request.

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