



Your reference: N/A
Our reference: FOI_24_0404
E-mail: FOI
@gloucestershire.police.uk
Direct dial: 01452 754304
Postal Address: As above
Date: 07/05/2024

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_24_0404

On 11/04/2024 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I am seeking information from your organisation about knife-enabled crime by young people.

Between (and including) the date periods - 1 January 2020 to 1 January 2024, and 1 January 2024 to 11 April 2024 – please provide the following calendar yearly figures for:

- 1 a) the number of offences of knife crime and knife-related crime recorded annually in your area since 2020,
- o 1 b) of which how many committed by people aged 16-19,
- 2a) The number of knife crime and knife-related crime recorded annually in post-16 further education institutions in your area since 2020.
- 2b) The number of all crimes committed by 16–19-year-olds recorded for every year in your area since 2020.

Please note that knife-related crime refers to offences made with bladed objects and can include (but are not limited to) possession, assault, threats or use of violence, grievous bodily harm, wounding, harassment, rape, robbery, criminal damage and affray.

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 has been conducted for all substantiated crimes recorded between 01/01/2020 – 11/04/2024. A filter then been applied to identify records where a knife crime tag has been applied and for knife related crimes of the following offences:

008/26 - Having an article with a blade or point in a public place

008/27 - Having an article with a blade or point on school premises

008/53 - Using someone to look after a dangerous weapon -
offensive/weapon/knife/bladed weapon

008/62 - Threaten with a blade or sharply pointed article on school premises

008/64 - Threaten with a blade or sharply pointed article in a public place.

A filter has then been applied for the offenders ages who were aged 16 – 19 years olds.

For the above offence a MO code had been applied of 150 – College/University.

A subsequent search had been conducted for all substantiated crimes where the offenders were aged 16-19 years old.

The results are as follows:

I have numbered your questions for ease of answering.

1a) An annual breakdown of knife crime and knife-related offences

Years	knife & knife related crimes
2020	441
2021	467
2022	494
2023	501
2024	125
Total	2028

1b) An Annual breakdown knife and knife-related crimes committed by people aged 16-19.

Years	knife & knife related crimes committed by 16-19 year olds
2020	19
2021	27
2022	33
2023	25
2024	2
Total	106

2a) in a consolidated response between 01/01/2021 – 31/12/2023 there have been 5 knife and knife-related crimes in post-16 further education institutions, any further breakdown of this information is exempt by virtue of 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 breakdown, 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 with 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.

2b) An annual breakdown of all substantiated crimes committed by 16-19 year olds

Years	All crimes committed by 16-19 year olds
2020	601
2021	548
2022	521
2023	617
2024	68
Total	2355

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