



Your reference: N/A
Our reference: FOI_25_0283
E-mail: FOI
@gloucestershire.police.uk
Direct dial: 01452 754304
Postal Address: As above
Date: 03/04/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0283

On 10/03/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I'm emailing from BBC News. I'm looking into the numbers of knife related incidents which happen at schools.

I am requesting the following information under the Freedom of Information Act. Please can you confirm you have received this request.

Please can you tell me the following:

Q1: For the years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 and 2024 the number of offences involving a knife committed at schools?

Q2: For the years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 and 2024 the number of offences involving a knife at school broken down by offence subgroup as per the Home Office counting rules?

Q3: For the years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 and 2024 the number of suspects for offences involving a knife committed at schools broken down by age and sex of the suspect?

Q4: For the years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 and 2024 involving a knife committed at schools broken down by how the suspect knows the victim?

Q5: For the years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 and 2024 the number of suspects for offences involving a knife committed at schools broken down by age and sex of the victim?

Q6: For the questions above, what method did you use to filter offences down to those committed at schools?

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

Unfortunately for Q4 there is no way of electronically extracting data regarding whether a suspect knew a victim prior to an incident involving a knife. The only way of trying to determine whether any relevant information is held and to retrieve that information would be to manually review each substantiated crime where a Knife Crime tag and the MO Code of School is present for the 10 years requested. This would involve the review of over 100 records and would therefore take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed by the Freedom of Information Act.

Please see below for suggestions on how you may be able to refine your request to come within the cost constraints of Section 12 of the Act.

Section 17(5) 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.

In relation to your request Section 12 applies.

Section 12(1) – Fee Regulations states:

Section 1(1) of the Act does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit. (As detailed in the Data Protection and Freedom of Information Fees Regulations of 2004)

The appropriate limit at the moment is £450 calculated at an hourly rate of £25 per hour for all staff time incurred in:

- i. Determining whether information is held
- ii. Locating it
- iii. Retrieving it
- iv. Extracting the information to be disclosed from the other information.

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

Section 16 –Duty to assist

There is some information which could assist with questions 1 & 2 of your request in an already published response. For ease I have provided the link below

[foi_25_0160_weapons-in-school.pdf](https://www.glos.gov.uk/foi/25_0160_weapons-in-school.pdf)

Regarding Q3 & 5 an additional search can be conducted for the age/sex of the offender and victim.

If this would assist please submit a new FOI 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