



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_25_0417

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 12/05/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0417

On 14/04/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

1. How many children (under 18) have been charged with possession of an offensive weapon in the last year?
2. How many children were charged with possession of an offensive weapon on school premises in the last year?
3. What is the age of the youngest child caught with an offensive weapon in your patch in the last year?
4. How many children (under 18) were charged with possession of an offensive weapon in 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025?

Clarification was sought from you on 14/4/25 in which you confirmed the following:

The specific offences are 'possession of offensive weapon' and anything else that falls under that, including 'possession of other weapons', 'possession of article with blade or point' and 'possession of firearm'.

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

A search was conducted for all substantiated crimes for the dates of 01.01.2021 – 14.04.2025 where the offender was under 18 and the offence falls under the class of Possession of Weapons

Please see the table below for questions 1 & 4 which provides the total number of offenders under 18 broken down by offence and year.

Offence & Year	Age							Total
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
Possession of Article with Blade or Point								
2021		1	2	2	1	4		10
2022			1	3	2	5	3	14
2023					1	4	5	10
2024	1			3	1	1	5	11
Possession of Other Weapons								
2021			1			1	1	3
2022					1	2		3
2023				1		1	3	5
2024				1	1			2
Possession of Weapons with Intent								
2023						2		2
Total	1	1	4	10	7	20	17	60

Q2. There have been no persons charged where the offence took place on school premises in 2024.

Q3. For the year of 2024 the youngest offender charged was 11.

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