



Your reference:

Our reference: FOI_25_0439

E-mail: FOI

@gloucestershire.police.uk

Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 22/05/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0439

On 23/04/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I'm doing some research on crimes involving zombie style knives and machetes.

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

Please can you tell me the following:

1: How many crimes were recorded referencing zombie knives/zombie-style knives/zombie-style machetes/zombie-style swords in the last four years? (Since 2021 - up to and including any data held for 2025)

**1a) Of those, how many involved youths (under18)?
Can figures be broken down by year?**

I would like to receive the information in the following format:

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Recorded Crime					
Under 18					
Total					

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.

A search has been conducted of Gloucestershire Constabulary's Crime Recording System for all substantiated crimes recorded between 01/01/2021 and 22/04/2025 for the offence of 'Possession of article with blade or point'. A secondary search has also been carried out to identify all records where the Knife Crime tag has been applied, regardless of the offence.

Using the results of both searches, a free text search of the MO text has then been conducted for the terms "machete" and "zombie". This has then been broken down by the age of the offender to identify those records falling into the age group of Under 18 – i.e. 0-17years old.

Please see the tables below for the results. Please also be advised that the totals do not correlate due to the following;

- Table 1 is a count of all recorded crimes
- Table 2 is a count of the ages of the offenders. This total will vary as more than one offender can be recorded against 1 crime record.

Table 1

Year	Crimes recorded
2021	20
2022	16
2023	22
2024	22
2025	2
Total	82

Table 2

Year	Age Group			Total
	0-17	18+	Unknown	
2021	2	17	3	22
2022	4	10	3	17

2023	7	15	3	25
2024	3	23	2	28
2025	3			3
Total	19	65	11	95

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