

Gloucestershire Constabulary
Police Headquarters
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Our reference: FOI_26_0508

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Direct dial: 01452 754304

Postal Address: As above

Date: 02/09/2026

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_26_0508

On 28/05/2026 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Dear Freedom of Information Officer,

I am writing to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I am requesting data on knife or sharp instrument offences recorded by your force where the incident took place on the premises of an educational setting attended by under-18s.

For the purposes of this request, relevant settings include state-funded primary schools, state-funded secondary schools, special schools, sixth form colleges, further education colleges, and others. Please exclude universities and higher education institutions whose students are predominantly adults.

I am requesting this data for calendar years 2021 to 2025 inclusive, plus 2026 year to date where available.

Specifically, I would like to know the total number of knife or sharp instrument offences at relevant premises broken down by calendar year and by offence type, using the following categories where possible:

- homicide;
- attempted murder;
- threats to kill;
- assault with injury;
- assault with intent to cause serious harm;
- robbery;
- rape;
- sexual assault;
- possession of a bladed article or offensive weapon (s.139 Criminal Justice Act 1988 / s.1 Prevention of Crime Act 1953);
- and any other relevant offence.

Note that some forces record categories that extend beyond knives to include other sharp instruments such as broken glass or needles - please include these but note the broader scope in your response.

I would also like, for any offences involving an assault (i.e. excluding possession-only or threats-only offences), a breakdown of injury severity showing whether the victim sustained

- no physical injury,
- minor or moderate physical injury,
- serious physical injury (including GBH or life-threatening injury),
- fatal injury,
- or whether injury status was unknown or not recorded.

If your force does not record injury severity as a structured field, please indicate this and provide whatever injury-related breakdown is available - for example, by offence classification as a proxy. Please break this down by calendar year.

I would also like, where your force records or can identify the type of setting at which each incident took place, a breakdown of the total figures by setting type:

- primary school;
- secondary school;
- special school;
- sixth form or FE college;
- and setting type unknown or not recorded.

If data for any calendar year is not held in a readily retrievable format, please provide the closest available approximation and note the difference.

Please confirm receipt of this request.

Further Request (sent on 29/05/2026)

Dear Freedom of Information Officer,

I am writing to make a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I am requesting data on knife or sharp instrument offences recorded by your force where the incident took place on the premises of an educational setting attended by under-18s. For the purposes of this request, relevant settings include state-funded primary schools, state-funded secondary schools, special schools, sixth form colleges, further education colleges, and others. Please exclude universities and higher education institutions whose students are predominantly adults.

I am requesting this data for calendar years 2021 to 2025 inclusive, plus 2026 year to date where available.

I would like to know the outcome recorded for each offence, broken down by calendar year, using the following categories where possible: charged or summonsed (Outcome 1); youth caution - simple caution (Outcome 2); community resolution (Outcome 8); youth conditional caution (Outcome 19); deferred prosecution (Outcome 20); no further action

(any NFA outcome - please specify sub-categories where possible); awaiting outcome or open; and any other outcome.

I would also like, where your force records or can identify the type of setting at which each incident took place, a breakdown of the total figures by setting type: primary school; secondary school; special school; sixth form or FE college; and setting type unknown or not recorded.

Finally, to understand whether incidents are concentrated in a small number of settings or spread more broadly, I would like an anonymous frequency distribution showing how many settings in your force area recorded 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 or more knife offences over the full period covered by this request (with 5 or more further broken down into 5–9, 10–19, and 20+ where possible). I am not requesting the names or identities of individual settings.

If data for any calendar year is not held in a readily retrievable format, please provide the closest available approximation and note the difference. This request covers offences at any time of day including outside normal hours and term time, and covers offences by or against persons of any age.

Please confirm receipt of this request.

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

Following receipt of your request, a search was undertaken of the Constabulary's crime recording database from 01/01/2021 to 28/05/2026 for the following offences:

- 008/27 - Having an article with a blade or point on school/further education premises
- 008/62 - Threaten with a blade or sharply pointed article on school/further education premises

62 records were returned. I conducted a manual review of the crime report free text for each returned record as Gloucestershire Constabulary does not record separately the following fields you requested:

- Type of setting
- Type of injury
- A further breakdown of the offence type, other than the Home Office offences listed above

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.

Please find below the information retrieved in response to your request. The following table breaks down the returned records by year and outcome as requested.

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Total
Charged/Summons		1	1				2
Prosecution prevented - suspect under age			2	1			3
Evidential difficulties: suspect identified; victim supports action	1	3	4	3	2		13
Evidential difficulties: suspect identified; victim does not support action	1	3			6	1	11
Youth Caution	1	1	1	1	3		7
Action undertaken by another body/agency	3	2	4	3	1		13
Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest	1						1
Diversionsary	1	1	3	2	1		8
Community Resolution	1			2			3
Ongoing						1	1
Total	9	11	15	12	13	2	62

Following a manual review, the following information is presented in response to your question about type of setting.

Setting	Count
College	1
Not recorded	57
Primary	1
Secondary	3
Total	62

Following a manual review, the following information is presented in response to your question about type of injury.

Type of Injury	Count
Not recorded	58
Threatening behaviour / threat to kill	4
Total	62

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