

**Force Disclosure Unit**

Wiltshire Police HQ

London Road

Devizes

Wiltshire

SN10 2DN

Tel 101 ext 62005

www.wiltshire.police.ukdisclosure@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

XXXXXX – by E Mail

Date: 5th May 2023

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2023 / 511

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 4th May 2023 concerning Children carrying offensive weapons.

I am required by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to handle all requests in a manner that is blind as to the identity and motives of the requestor. Any information released as a response to a request is regarded as being published and therefore in the public domain without caveat.

Your request for information has now been considered and – having consulted our Business Performance Team - I am now able to respond as follows.

You wrote:

How many children (U-18s) were recorded carrying offensive weapons, and what weapons were they, for each year from 2018 to 2022, and for 2023 (1 January to 4 May)?

Our response:

The information you require is shown in the table below.

Please note the following :-

- a) The information provided is for Crimes and Non-Crime Incidents – a unique crime or non-crime incident is recorded for each person (child) involved
- b) Where the person role is either Arrested / Suspect / Offender / Young Offender
- c) The person age is under 18
- d) The data for 2023 is up to and including 4th May 2023
- e) The data has been produced where the Weapon Used flag has been used against a crime or incident
- f) The Weapon Used flag is non-mandatory and its' use is at the discretion of the individual recording the incident – there may be other cases where weapons have been involved but the Weapon Used Flag has not be used



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Weapon Recorded	Reported Year						Grand Total
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023 to date	
Acid/corrosive	1	1	1			2	5
Air weapon	2	3	2	2	6		15
Air weapon,Firearm (possession),Firearm (used/threatened)					1		1
Air weapon,Sharp instrument		1					1
Blunt instrument	125	111	96	94	83	42	551
Blunt instrument,Burn heat/flame		1					1
Blunt instrument,Firearm (used/threatened),Knife/blade (used/threatened)	1						1
Blunt instrument,Fluid	1	1	2		1		5
Blunt instrument,Fluid,Glass/bottle					1		1
Blunt instrument,Fluid,Knife/bladed(possession)		1					1
Blunt instrument,Fluid,Other,Sharp instrument			1				1
Blunt instrument,Fluid,Sharp instrument		1					1
Blunt instrument,Gas spray/noxious	2						2
Blunt instrument,Glass/bottle					2		2
Blunt instrument,Knife/blade (used/threatened)	2	3	3	1	2	1	12
Blunt instrument,Knife/blade (used/threatened),Knife/bladed(possession)	1						1
Blunt instrument,Knife/blade (used/threatened),Other	4						4
Blunt instrument,Knife/blade (used/threatened),Other fire arm	1						1
Blunt instrument,Knife/bladed(possession)	1				1		2
Blunt instrument,Other			3	7	1		11
Blunt instrument,Rope			3				3
Blunt instrument,Sharp instrument	1	2	1				4
Bow/cross bow		3					3
Burn heat/flame	23	33	33	25	26	11	151
Burn heat/flame,Explosives			2				2
Burn heat/flame,Fluid					1		1
Burn heat/flame,Gas spray/noxious	1				1		2
Burn heat/flame,Knife/blade (used/threatened)			1				1
Burn heat/flame,Other					1		1
Explosives	2	2	1		2		7
Firearm (possession)	3	5	4	1	4	2	19
Firearm (possession),Firearm (used/threatened)	1	1		1	1	1	5
Firearm (possession),Knife/bladed(possession)			1		1	1	3
Firearm (used/threatened)	1	8	1	3	14	3	30
Firearm (used/threatened),Imitation				1	1		2
Firearm (used/threatened),Knife/blade (used/threatened)	1						1
Firearm (used/threatened),Knife/bladed(possession)			1				1
Fluid	80	63	92	111	102	36	484
Fluid,Gas spray/noxious	1						1
Fluid,Glass/bottle			2			1	3
Fluid,Glass/bottle,Other			1				1
Fluid,Knife/blade (used/threatened)			1		1		2
Fluid,Knife/blade (used/threatened),Knife/bladed(possession)			1				1
Fluid,Other	1		4	7	13	2	27
Fluid,Sharp instrument					2		2
Gas spray/noxious	2	4		1	2		9
Gas spray/noxious,Knife/bladed(possession),Other		1					1
Gas spray/noxious,Sharp instrument			1				1
Glass/bottle	29	25	15	18	22	12	121
Glass/bottle,Knife/blade (used/threatened)	1			1			2
Glass/bottle,Knife/blade (used/threatened),Knife/bladed(possession),Other		1					1
Glass/bottle,Knife/bladed(possession)			1		1		2
Glass/bottle,Other	1				1		2
Imitation	1						1
Knife/blade (used/threatened)	65	89	102	87	125	33	501
Knife/blade (used/threatened),Knife/bladed(possession)	6	4	3	7	18		38
Knife/blade (used/threatened),Knife/bladed(possession),Other				1			1
Knife/blade (used/threatened),Other	1	2	2	1	1	1	8
Knife/blade (used/threatened),Other fire arm						1	1
Knife/blade (used/threatened),Rope,Sharp instrument		1					1
Knife/blade (used/threatened),Sharp instrument	2	1	2	1			6
Knife/bladed(possession)	73	88	55	76	103	17	412
Knife/bladed(possession),Other					1		1
Knife/bladed(possession),Sharp instrument					1		1
Non convertible				1	2		3
Other fire arm		1	1	1	2		5
Other,Sharp instrument	2						2
Pistol, revolver etc			1				1
Pistol, revolver etc,Prohibited fire arm				1			1
Rope	1			1			2
Sharp instrument	27	51	21	40	35	5	179
Shotgun		1					1
Shotgun (sawn off)			1				1
Grand Total	467	509	462	490	582	171	2681

I am satisfied that all the relevant information has been passed to me and been considered in the light of your request within the time constraints applicable under the legislation.

Wiltshire Police would like to thank you for the interest that you have shown in the Force.

Yours sincerely,

Nick Penny
Disclosure Decision Maker

Wiltshire Police offers a re-examination of your case under its review procedure.



Force Disclosure Unit

Wiltshire Police HQ, London Road, Devizes, Wiltshire SN10 2DN
Telephone 101 ext 62005

Freedom of Information Request Appeals Procedure

1. Who Can Ask for a Review

Any person who has requested information from Wiltshire Police, which has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act, is entitled to complain and request an internal review, if they are dissatisfied with the response they received.

2. How to Request a Review

Requests for review of a Freedom of Information request must be made in writing to the:

Force Disclosure Unit
Wiltshire Police Headquarters,
London Road, Devizes,
Wiltshire,
SN10 2DN

Email at disclosure@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk.

The reference number, date of the request and details of why the review is being requested must be included. Requests for review should be brought to the attention of the Force Disclosure Unit within 20 working days of the Force's response to the original FoI request.

3. Review Procedure

Receipt of a request for review will be acknowledged in writing to include confirmation of the reasons for the review. The review will be conducted by another Decision Maker, who is independent from the original Decision Maker. The Force Disclosure Unit will set a target date for a response. The response will be made as soon as is practicable with the intention to complete the review within twenty working days. In more complex cases the review may take up to 40 working days.

The Independent Decision Maker will conduct a review of the handling of the request for information and of decisions taken, including decisions taken about where the public interest lies in respect of exempt information where applicable. The review enables a re-evaluation of the case, taking into account the matters raised by the complaint.

4. Conclusion of the Appeal

On completion of the review the Independent Decision Maker will reply to the complainant with the result of the review. If the complainant is still dissatisfied following the review they should contact the Information Commissioner to make an appeal. The Information Commissioner can be contacted via the following details:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 01625 545 700
Fax: 01625 524 510
Email: mail@ico.gsi.gov.uk