



WILTSHIRE POLICE

Force Disclosure Unit

Police Headquarters
London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

Date: 6th October 2023

Ref: FOI 2023/955

Dear,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 3rd October 2023 concerning school pupils found in possession of 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 I am not obliged to supply the information you have requested.

You wrote:

1. The number of pupils aged 18 and under found in possession of offensive weapons such as knives, pellet guns, hammers etc on school premises (nursery, primary and secondary) in the academic years 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 so far.
2. The above information should be broken down by date/month of incident, age of pupil, and description of the weapon.
3. It should also include what the police response was (arrest, warning etc), and whether the weapon was used to commit another crime, such as assault against a pupil or teacher.

Our response:

The information that you are requesting for part of your request is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval. This is because we are not easily able to obtain the data requested relating to weapons such as pellet guns and hammers etc, that a school pupil may have been found in possession of on a school premises, because they are not an offence within their right that we can easily search on and extract from our systems. As a result, the only way in which we would be able to obtain this information would be to physically trawl through each report made for the time frames requested, and this would be to firstly see if the report took place at/or related to a school setting, and secondly, to

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ascertain the nature of the report – i.e.: whether an offensive weapon has been reported and if so, what this weapon is, in order to obtain the information you require accurately.

However, please be aware that we are able to obtain information with regards to knife/blades as it is an offence within its own right to be in possession of a knife/blade on a school premises and therefore, we have been able to extract this data for you. More information has been provided to you with regards to this below.

Also, please be aware that in order to obtain whether a weapon reported on a school premises has been reportedly used to commit another crime – similarly to the above, this is not information that is stored in an easily retrievable and accurate manner. Therefore, again, the only way in which we would be able to obtain this data would be to manually peruse all reports for the time period requested.

Under the circumstances I am absolutely confident that to locate, retrieve and extract the information you seek would by far exceed the time obligations upon this authority to comply, and in so doing would exceed the fees limits. This is set at £450 calculated at a flat rate of £25 per hour for those work activities comprising of confirming the information is held, locating it, retrieving it and extracting it.

Please note, that if one part of the request engages a Section 12 response, the whole request will engage a Section 12 response. The reason being is due to the fact that locating, retrieving and extracting any further information would only add to the already exceeded time obligations.

Although excess cost removes the forces' obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill I have supplied information, relative to your request, retrieved or available before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded. I trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request. What I am able to provide you are the answers documented below –

Reported Month & Year	Offence Description	Weapon Used	Reported Age	Arrested	Detection Status
Apr-2022	Having an article with a blade or point on school premises	Knife/bladed (possession)	12		20: Other body/agency has investigation primacy
Apr-2022	Possess an article with a blade or point on school/further education premises	Knife/bladed (possession)	12		15: Police - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties
May-2022	Having an article with a blade or point on school premises	Knife/bladed (possession)	14		20: Other body/agency has investigation primacy

May-2022	Having an article with a blade or point on school premises	Knife/bladed (possession)	14		22: Diversionary, educational or intervention activity, resulting from crime reports, has been undertaken and is not in the public interest to take any further action.
May-2022	Possess an article with a blade or point on school/further education premises	Knife/bladed (possession)	14		22: Diversionary, educational or intervention activity, resulting from crime reports, has been undertaken and is not in the public interest to take any further action.
May-2022	Possess an article with a blade or point on school/further education premises	Knife/bladed (possession)	15	Arrested	22: Diversionary, educational or intervention activity, resulting from crime reports, has been undertaken and is not in the public interest to take any further action.
May-2022	Possess offensive weapon on school/further education premises	No weapon used	16	Arrested	1: Summonsed/postal requisition
May-2022	Possess an article with a blade or point on school/further education premises	Sharp instrument	14	Arrested	22: Diversionary, educational or intervention activity, resulting from crime reports, has been undertaken and is not in the public interest

					to take any further action.
Jun-2022	Possess an article with a blade or point on school/further education premises	Knife/bladed (possession)	13		15: Police - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties
Jun-2022	Possess an article with a blade or point on school/further education premises	Knife/bladed (possession)	14		20: Other body/agency has investigation primacy
Nov-2022	Possess an article with a blade or point on school/further education premises	Knife/bladed (possession)	12		20: Other body/agency has investigation primacy
Nov-2022	Possess an article with a blade or point on school/further education premises	Sharp instrument	12		20: Other body/agency has investigation primacy
Nov-2022	Possess an article with a blade or point on school/further education premises	Knife/bladed (possession)	14		15: Police - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties
Dec-2022	Possess an article with a blade or point on school/further education premises	Knife/bladed (possession)	16		15: Police - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties
Dec-2022	Possess an article with a blade or point on school/further education premises	Knife/bladed (possession)	16	Arrested	Cancelled/transferred

Dec-2022	Possess an article with a blade or point on school/further education premises	Knife/bladed (possession)	15		20: Other body/agency has investigation primacy
Jan-2023	Possess an article with a blade or point on school/further education premises	Knife/bladed (possession)	14	Arrested	22: Diversionary, educational or intervention activity, resulting from crime reports, has been undertaken and is not in the public interest to take any further action.
Feb-2023	Threaten with a blade or sharply pointed article on school/further education premises	Knife/blade (used/threatened)	13		16: Victim declines/withdraws support - named suspect identified
Mar-2023	Possess an article with a blade or point on school/further education premises	Knife/bladed (possession)	12		20: Other body/agency has investigation primacy
Mar-2023	Possess an article with a blade or point on school/further education premises	Knife/bladed (possession)	15		15: Police - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties
Apr-2023	Possess an article with a blade or point on school/further education premises	Knife/bladed (possession)	14		22: Diversionary, educational or intervention activity, resulting from crime reports, has been undertaken and is not in the public interest to take any further action.

May-2023	Possess an article with a blade or point on school/further education premises	Knife/bladed (possession)	14		New
May-2023	Possess an article with a blade or point on school/further education premises	Knife/bladed (possession)	11		20: Other body/agency has investigation primacy
Jul-2023	Possess an article with a blade or point on school/further education premises	Knife/bladed (possession)	10		15: Police - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties
Sep-2023	Threaten with a blade or sharply pointed article on school/further education premises	Knife/blade (used/threatened)	14		New
Oct-2023	Possess an article with a blade or point on school/further education premises	Knife/bladed (possession)	16		New

Ordinarily under our Section 16 duty to provide advice and assistance, we would advise you how to refine your request to a more manageable level. However, due to the difficulties outlined above, I cannot see how this can be achieved in this particular case.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the Wiltshire Police, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which: (a) states that fact, (b) specifies the exemption in question and (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

The exemption applicable to the information requested is:

Section 12 – Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit

(1) Section 1(1) 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.

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In accordance with Section 17 of the Act, this letter represents a Refusal Notice for this particular request.

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,

Force 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

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.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.

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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