



Force Disclosure Unit
Police Headquarters
London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

Date: 5th January 2024

Ref: FOI 2024/007

Dear,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 2nd January 2024 concerning knife crime.

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 after having consulted our Performance Team – I am now able to respond as follows.

You wrote:

I'm looking into the numbers of crimes involving large blades, specifically machetes, swords and zombie knives

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

I recently did a test Freedom of Information request to West Midlands Police requesting the same data that I'm requesting from your force. I did this to find out what data was collected and if I would get a response within cost limits. West Midlands Police provided really useful and comprehensive data. I've attached their response to this request. If it is possible, I would really appreciate your data being presented in a similar way.

Please can you tell me the following:

Q1: For the years 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 how many crimes were logged by your force where a machete was recorded as being an element in the offence? (Note: I would hope that this could be achieved by a computer search on the MO of crimes for the words "machete" or variants of the spelling to include "machette" and "machetes").

Q2: For the years 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 how many crimes were logged by your force where a sword was recorded as being an element in the offence?

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Q3: For the years 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 how many crimes were logged by your force where a zombie knife or zombie sword was recorded as being an element in the offence?

Q4: Please provide me with a table showing a breakdown of the crimes from Question 1 that are 'linked' to machete/s by its mention in the MO for 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 by offence subgroup as per the Home Office counting rules.

Q5: Please provide me with a table showing a breakdown of the crimes from Question 2 that are 'linked' to sword/s by its mention in the MO for 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 by offence subgroup as per the Home Office counting rules.

Q6: Please provide me with a table showing a breakdown of the crimes from Question 3 that are 'linked' to zombie knife/knives by its mention in the MO for 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 by offence subgroup as per the Home Office counting rules.

Our response:

Please see the table below for more information.

Reported Year & Offence Description	Weapon				
	Machete	Machete/ Zombie Knife	Machete/Sword	Zombie Knife	Grand Total
2019	33			4	37
Affray	2				2
Burglary residential	1				1
Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress (S4A POA)	5				5
Common assault (S39) and assault without injury (Class 105A)	2				2
Criminal damage to a residence (under £5000)	1				1
Fear or provocation of violence (S4 POA)	3				3
Harassment, alarm or distress (S5 POA)	1				1
Having an article with a blade or point in a public place	5				5
Import prohibited weapons/ammunition with intent to evade prohibition/restriction				1	1
Possess an offensive weapon				2	2
Racially or religiously aggravated harassment, alarm or distress (Sec 5 POA)	1				1
Robbery - business	1				1
Robbery - personal	2				2
Sending letters etc with intent to cause distress or anxiety	2				2
Threaten a person with a blade/sharply pointed article in a public place	3				3
Threaten a person with an offensive weapon in public place				1	1
Threats to kill	1				1
Wounding with intent to do GBH Section 18	3				3

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2020	33		2	2	37
Affray	2				2
Assault occasioning actual bodily harm (Section 47)	1				1
Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress (S4A POA)	1				1
Common assault (S39) and assault without injury (Class 105A)	1				1
Fear or provocation of violence (S4 POA)	5		2	1	8
Harassment, alarm or distress (S5 POA)	1				1
Having an article with a blade or point in a public place	5			1	6
Possess an offensive weapon	2				2
Robbery - business	1				1
Robbery - personal	1				1
Sending letters etc with intent to cause distress or anxiety	4				4
Theft from shops and stalls (Shoplifting)	1				1
Threaten a person with an offensive weapon in public place	1				1
Wounding with intent to do GBH Section 18	7				7
2021	73	1		1	75
Affray	6				6
Aggravated burglary residential	1				1
Assault occasioning actual bodily harm (Section 47)	4			1	5
Attempt murder	1				1
Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress (S4A POA)	5	1			6
Common assault (S39) and assault without injury (Class 105A)	8				8
Criminal damage to a residence (under £5000)	1				1
Criminal damage to vehicle (under £5000)	1				1
Fear or provocation of violence (S4 POA)	7				7
Harassment, alarm or distress (S5 POA)	2				2
Having an article with a blade or point in a public place	10				10
Pervert the course of justice	1				1
Possess an offensive weapon	2				2
Possessing or distributing prohibited weapons or ammunition	1				1
Possession of offensive weapon without lawful authority or reasonable excuse	1				1
Rape of a Female aged 16 or over (Sec 1 SOA 2003)	1				1
Robbery - personal	8				8
Sending letters etc with intent to cause distress or anxiety	2				2
Threaten a person with a blade/sharply pointed article in a public place	4				4
Threaten a person with an offensive weapon in public place	1				1
Wounding with intent to do GBH Section 18	6				6
2022	133	1	1	8	143
Affray	6				6
Aggravated burglary residential	2				2
Assault occasioning actual bodily harm (Sec 47)	1				1
Assault occasioning actual bodily harm (Section 47)	6			1	7
Burglary business and community	1				1
Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress (Sec 4a POA)	8				8
Common assault (S39) and assault without injury (Class 105A)	6				6

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Common Assault and Battery	7				7
Criminal damage to a building - business and community (under £5000)	1				1
Criminal damage to vehicle (under £5000)	2				2
Fear or provocation of violence (S4 POA)	6				6
Fear or provocation of violence (Sec 4)	8	1			9
Having an article with a blade or point in a public place	13				13
Having possession of a controlled drug - Cannabis	1				1
Having possession of a controlled drug - Cocaine	1				1
Malicious wounding: wounding or inflicting grievous bodily harm (Sec 20)	2				2
Malicious Wounding:- Wounding or Inflicting grievous bodily harm (without intent Section 20)	2				2
Offence of possession of an offensive weapon in a private place				3	3
Other criminal damage to a building - business and community (under £5000)	1				1
Other criminal damage to a residence (under £5000)	1				1
Other criminal damage to a vehicle (under £5000)	3				3
Possess an offensive weapon	4			1	5
Possess class B controlled drug - cannabis	1				1
Possessing etc. firearms or ammunition without firearm certificate	1				1
Possession of offensive weapon without lawful authority or reasonable excuse	1		1		2
Racially or religiously aggravated wounding or grievous bodily harm (Sec 20)	1				1
Robbery - personal	6				6
Robbery personal	12			1	13
Sending letters etc with intent to cause distress or anxiety	4				4
Sending letters etc. with intent to cause distress or anxiety	7			1	8
Threaten a person with a blade or sharply pointed article in a private place	1				1
Threaten a person with a blade/sharply pointed article in a public place	2				2
Threaten a person with an offensive weapon/substance in a private place	1				1
Threaten with a blade or sharply pointed article in a public place	2				2
Threats to kill	2				2
Violent disorder	2				2
Wounding with intent to do GBH Section 18	3			1	4
Wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm (Sec 18)	5				5
2023	73	2		1	76
Affray	6				6
Aggravated burglary - residential home	2				2
Assault occasioning actual bodily harm (Sec 47)	2				2
Attempt murder	1				1

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Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress (Sec 4a POA)	5				5
Common Assault and Battery	5				5
Fear or provocation of violence (Sec 4)	6	1			7
Harassment	1				1
Having an article with a blade or point in a public place	6				6
Having possession of a controlled drug - Other Class A drug	1				1
Having possession of a controlled drug - Other Class B drug	1				1
Malicious wounding: wounding or inflicting grievous bodily harm (Sec 20)	1				1
Offence of possession of an offensive weapon in a private place	2	1		1	4
Other criminal damage to a vehicle (under £5000)	2				2
Possessing etc. firearms or ammunition without firearm certificate	1				1
Possessing firearm or imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence (except Shotgun/Air Weapons)	1				1
Possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply - Other Class A drug	1				1
Possession of offensive weapon without lawful authority or reasonable excuse	2				2
Rape of a female aged 16 or over	1				1
Residential burglary of unconnected building	1				1
Robbery personal	10				10
Sending letters etc. with intent to cause distress or anxiety	2				2
Threaten with a blade or sharply pointed article in a public place	5				5
Threaten with an offensive weapon in a public place	1				1
Threats to kill	2				2
Violent disorder	1				1
Wounding with intent to do grievous bodily harm (Sec 18)	4				4
Grand Total	345	4	3	16	368

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

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