



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

Date: 30th January 2024

Ref: FOI 2023/091

I write in connection with your request for information dated 22nd January 2024 concerning child 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 performance team – I am now able to respond as follows.

You wrote:

I would like to know what data Wiltshire Police holds on children that have been caught with a knife and/or been attacked with a knife.

I am looking for data pertaining to 6 to 13 year olds which is broken it down by age (ie individual stats for 6 year olds, 7 years olds, etc) on the following:

1. The number of children within that age bracket who have been found with a knife by the police.
2. The number of children within that age bracket that have been a victim of knife related crimes committed by other adults.
3. The number of children within that age bracket who have been a victim of knife related crimes by other children
4. The number of children within the ages of 10 to 13 that have been arrested or charged for carrying a knife.

The date needed is from Jan 2019 to December 2023 (or the most recent available data - please make clear when this data runs up to) and would like the data broken down by year and age group.

Our response:

Question 1

Year	Individuals
2019	63
8	1
9	3
10	4
11	10
12	19
13	26
2020	44
10	4
11	9
12	18
13	13
2021	47
8	1
9	1
10	1
11	6
12	15
13	23
2022	81
7	1
8	2
10	7
11	14
12	23
13	34
2023	83
9	1
10	5
11	19
12	17
13	41
Grand Total	318

Question 2

	Suspect			
Year	Adult	No suspect identified	Under 18	Grand Total
2019	4	3	30	37
10	2		2	4
11		1	4	5
12	1	1	7	9
13	1		10	11
7			1	1
8		1	1	2
9			5	5
2020	7	1	17	25
10	2		1	3
11			3	3
12	1	1	7	9
13	2		6	8
6	1			1
7	1			1
2021	4	5	22	31
10		1		1
11	1	1	5	7
12	2	2	4	8
13		1	8	9
7			1	1
8			1	1
9	1		3	4
2022	3	21	45	69
10			2	2
11		2	7	9
12		6	21	27
13	2	9	14	25
6		1		1
7	1			1
8		1		1
9		2	1	3
2023	2	8	50	60
10			5	5
11		1	13	14
12		1	13	14
13	2	6	13	21
6			1	1
7			1	1
9			4	4
Grand Total	20	38	164	222

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Question 3

Year	
	Arrested
2019	9
8	
9	
10	1
11	
12	2
13	6
2020	7
10	
11	
12	3
13	4
2021	4
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	1
13	3
2022	13
7	
8	
10	1
11	2
12	1
13	9
2023	11
9	
10	
11	1
12	
13	10
Grand Total	44



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Question 4

	Year					
Detection Status	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Grand Total
1: Charged	3	4	1	3	1	12
12		2				2
13	3	2	1	3	1	10
10: Police - formal action not in public interest	2	2				4
10		1				1
11	2					2
13		1				1
11: Named suspect below age of criminal responsibility	2		2			4
8	1		1			2
9	1		1			2
14: Victim declines/unable to support action to identify offender					1	1
11					1	1
15: CPS - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties	1		1			2
12	1					1
13			1			1
15: Police - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties	20	11	18	29	14	92
10	1		1	4	1	7
11	5	4	2	7	2	20
12	6	5	4	5	5	25
13	8	2	11	13	6	40
16: Victim declines/withdraws support - named suspect identified	16	18	11	14	33	92
10	1	2		1	2	6

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11		3	2	4	7	16
12	5	7	4	4	6	26
13	10	6	5	5	18	44
18: Investigation complete no suspect identified			1		1	2
12			1			1
13					1	1
1A: Alternate offence charged				1		1
11				1		1
1A: Alternate offence summonsed/postal requisition			1	1		2
13			1	1		2
20: Other body/agency has investigation primacy	6		1	9	7	23
10					1	1
11	2			1	3	6
12	2		1	5	2	10
13	2			3	1	6
21: Police - named suspect, investigation not in the public interest	2	1	1			4
10	1					1
12	1	1				2
13			1			1
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.				2	3	5
11					1	1
12				2		2
13					2	2
8: Community resolution	4			1		5
11	1					1
12	2			1		3
13	1					1
8: Youth restorative disposal	1	1	1	2	1	6
11			1		1	2
12		1		1		2

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13	1			1		2
Cancelled/transferred		2	4	11	4	21
10		1		1	1	3
11				1	1	2
12			3	5		8
13		1	1	4	2	8
Crime related incident	1	1	2		3	7
11			1			1
12					1	1
13	1	1	1		2	5
New			1	1	11	13
11					3	3
12					1	1
13			1	1	7	9
NZ other incident non crime	5	4	2	4		15
7				1		1
8				1		1
9	2					2
10	1			1		2
11		2				2
12	2	2	2			6
13				1		1
Other incident non crime				3	4	7
8				1		1
9					1	1
12					2	2
13				2	1	3
Grand Total	63	44	47	81	83	318

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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.

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:

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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