

WILTSHIRE POLICE



**Force Disclosure Unit
Police Headquarters**

London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

Date 23rd May 2024

Our Ref FOI 2024-495

Dear XXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 8th May 2024, concerning crimes and offensive weapons in educational establishments.

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.

Following receipt of your request, research was conducted by Team Performance at Wiltshire Police. Your request for information has now been considered and I am not obliged to supply the information you have requested.

You wrote:

1. How many offensive weapons were found in educational establishments in the following calendar years: 2018, 2019, 2022, 2023

For each recorded find, please include:

- The type of offensive weapon
- The type of establishment (e.g primary school, secondary school, college)
- The age and sex of the suspect (if known and possible)
- The outcome (e.g whether there was an arrest)

2. How many crimes were recorded in educational establishments in the following calendar years: 2018, 2019, 2022, 2023

For each recorded incident please include:

- The type of establishment (e.g primary school, secondary school, college)
- The crime type
- The age and sex of the suspect (if known and possible)

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Our response:

Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) places two duties on public authorities. Unless exemptions apply, the first duty at s1(1)(a) is to confirm or deny whether the information specified in a request is held. The second duty at s1(1)(b) is to disclose information that has been confirmed as being held.

Whilst I can confirm Wiltshire Police do hold the requested information, section 12(1) of the FOIA states:-

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.

The information you are requesting, namely in regards to question 2, is not stored in a way which permits for easy retrieval. Although Wiltshire Police do have a 'flag' for school locations on our crime recording system, this is based on the postcode of the school meaning results may be returned that are not relevant to your request (i.e. if an incident occurred on the street outside of the school).

In order to determine whether or not the crime was relevant to this request we would be required to manually review each crime recorded within the requested time frame, of which there would be thousands.

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. Therefore the whole of the request should fall under the exemption of section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Please note:

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.

Forces may use different recording systems, therefore it may be possible some Forces can provide this information where others cannot.

Ordinarily under our Section 16 obligation to provide advice and assistance we would advise you of a way to refine your request to a more manageable level. Due to the difficulties in obtaining the requested information, as outlined above, I cannot think of a way in which this could be achieved.

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 can provide you with is documented below:

You asked:

1. How many offensive weapons were found in educational establishments in the following calendar years: 2018, 2019, 2022, 2023

For each recorded find, please include:

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- The type of offensive weapon
- The type of establishment (e.g primary school, secondary school, college)
- The age and sex of the suspect (if known and possible)
- The outcome (e.g whether there was an arrest)

Reported . Year	Weapon Used	Offence Description	Suspect Reported Age	Suspect Gender	Outcome
2019	Sharp instrument	Having an article with a blade or point on school premises	9	M	11: Named suspect below age of criminal responsibility
2019	Knife/bladed (possession)	Having an article with a blade or point on school premises	15	M	15: Police - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties
2019	Knife/bladed (possession)	Threaten a person with a blade/sharply pointed article on school premises	12	F	20: Other body/agency has investigation primacy
2019	Knife/bladed (possession)	Having an article with a blade or point on school premises	15	M	1: Summoned/postal requisition
2019	Knife/bladed (possession)	Having an article with a blade or point on school premises	11	M	20: Other body/agency has investigation primacy
2019	Blunt instrument	Possess offensive weapon on school premises	16	M	8: Youth restorative disposal
2019	Knife/bladed (possession)	Having an article with a blade or point on	14	M	15: Police - named suspect, victim

		school premises			supports but evidential difficulties
2019	Knife/bladed (possession)	Having an article with a blade or point on school premises	10	M	21: Police - named suspect, investigation not in the public interest
2019	Knife/blade (used/threatened)	Threaten a person with a blade/sharply pointed article on school premises	12	M	15: Police - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties
2019	Knife/bladed (possession)	Having an article with a blade or point on school premises	14	M	2: Youth conditional caution
2019	Knife/bladed (possession)	Having an article with a blade or point on school premises	11	M	15: Police - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties
2019	Knife/bladed (possession)	Having an article with a blade or point on school premises	14	M	15: Police - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties
2019	Sharp instrument	Having an article with a blade or point on school premises	15	M	8: Youth restorative disposal
2019	Knife/bladed (possession)	Having an article with a blade or point on school premises	14	M	2: Youth caution
2019	Knife/bladed (possession)	Having an article with a blade or	15	M	8: Youth restorative disposal

		point on school premises			
2019	Knife/bladed (possession)	Having an article with a blade or point on school premises	13	F	20: Other body/agency has investigation primacy
2019	Knife/bladed (possession)	Possess offensive weapon on school premises	13	M	20: Other body/agency has investigation primacy
2019	Knife/bladed (possession)	Possess offensive weapon on school premises	19	M	Cancelled/transferred
2020	Other	Possess offensive weapon on school premises	16	F	2: Youth conditional caution
2020	Knife/bladed (possession)	Having an article with a blade or point on school premises	50	M	Cancelled/transferred
2020	Knife/bladed (possession)	Having an article with a blade or point on school premises	12	F	21: Police - named suspect, investigation not in the public interest
2020	Knife/bladed (possession)	Having an article with a blade or point on school premises	49	M	1: Charged
2020	Other fire arm	Possess offensive weapon on school premises	14	M	15: Police - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties

2020	No weapon used	Having an article with a blade or point on school premises	15	M	15: Police - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties
2020	Fluid	Threaten a person with an offensive weapon on school premises	18	M	16: Victim declines/withdraws support - named suspect identified
2020	Knife/blade (used/threatened)	Threaten a person with an offensive weapon on school premises	18	M	16: Victim declines/withdraws support - named suspect identified
2020	Fluid	Threaten a person with an offensive weapon on school premises	19	M	16: Victim declines/withdraws support - named suspect identified
2020	Knife/blade (used/threatened)	Threaten a person with an offensive weapon on school premises	19	M	16: Victim declines/withdraws support - named suspect identified
2020	Fluid	Threaten a person with an offensive weapon on school premises	22	M	16: Victim declines/withdraws support - named suspect identified
2020	Knife/blade (used/threatened)	Threaten a person with an offensive weapon on school premises	22	M	16: Victim declines/withdraws support - named suspect identified
2021	Knife/bladed (possession)	Having an article with a blade or point on school premises	12	M	Cancelled/transferred

2021	Knife/bladed (possession)	Having an article with a blade or point on school premises	11	M	15: Police - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties
2021	Firearm (used/threatened)	Possess offensive weapon on school premises	15	M	Cancelled/transferred
2021	Knife/bladed (possession)	Possess offensive weapon on school premises	12	F	15: Police - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties
2021	Other	Possess offensive weapon on school premises	14	F	8: Youth restorative disposal
2021	Knife/blade (used/threatened)	Having an article with a blade or point on school premises	14	F	20: Other body/agency has investigation primacy
2021	Knife/bladed (possession)	Having an article with a blade or point on school premises	11	M	15: Police - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties
2021	Knife/bladed (possession)	Having an article with a blade or point on school premises	15	M	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.
2021	No weapon used	Having an article with a blade or point on school premises	11	M	15: Police - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties

2021	Knife/bladed(possession)	Having an article with a blade or point on school premises	15	M	15: Police - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties
2021	No weapon used	Possess offensive weapon on school premises	16	M	20: Other body/agency has investigation primacy
2021	Sharp instrument	Possess offensive weapon on school premises	12	M	15: Police - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties
2021	Knife/bladed(possession)	Having an article with a blade or point on school premises	13	F	15: Police - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties
2021	No weapon used	Possess offensive weapon on school premises	13	M	20: Other body/agency has investigation primacy
2021	Other	Possess offensive weapon on school premises	13	M	20: Other body/agency has investigation primacy
2022	Knife/bladed(possession)	Having an article with a blade or point on school premises	12	M	20: Other body/agency has investigation primacy
2022	Knife/bladed(possession)	Possess an article with a blade or point on school/further education premises	12	M	15: Police - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties
2022	Knife/bladed(possession)	Possess an article with a blade or	14	F	22: Diversionary, educational or intervention activity,

		point on school/further education premises			resulting from crime reports, has been undertaken and is not in the public interest to take any further action.
2022	Sharp instrument	Threaten a person with a blade/sharply pointed article on school premises	12	M	15: Police - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties
2022	Knife/bladed (possession)	Possess offensive weapon on school premises	12	M	8: Community resolution
2022	Knife/bladed (possession)	Possess an article with a blade or point on school/further education premises	15	M	20: Other body/agency has investigation primacy
2022	Knife/bladed (possession)	Possess an article with a blade or point on school/further education premises	16	M	Cancelled/transferred
2022	Knife/bladed (possession)	Possess an article with a blade or point on school/further education premises	14	M	15: Police - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties
2022	Knife/bladed (possession)	Possess an article with a blade or point on school/further education premises	12	M	20: Other body/agency has investigation primacy

2022	Sharp instrument	Possess an article with a blade or point on school/further education premises	12	M	20: Other body/agency has investigation primacy
2022	Knife/bladed (possession)	Possess an article with a blade or point on school/further education premises	17	M	21: Police - named suspect, investigation not in the public interest
2022	Sharp instrument	Possess an article with a blade or point on school/further education premises	14	M	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.
2022	No weapon used	Possess offensive weapon on school/further education premises	16	M	1: Summoned/postal requisition
2022	Knife/bladed (possession)	Possess an article with a blade or point on school/further education premises	15	M	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.
2022	Knife/bladed (possession)	Possess an article with a blade or point on school/further education premises	14	M	20: Other body/agency has investigation primacy
2022	Knife/bladed (possession)	Possess an article with a blade or point on school/further education premises	13	M	15: Police - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties

		r education premises			
2022	Knife/bladed (possession)	Having an article with a blade or point on school premises	14	F	20: Other body/agency has investigation primacy
2022	Knife/bladed (possession)	Having an article with a blade or point on school premises	14	M	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.
2022	Knife/bladed (possession)	Having an article with a blade or point on school premises	12	M	20: Other body/agency has investigation primacy
2022	Knife/bladed (possession)	Possess offensive weapon on school premises	13	M	8: Youth restorative disposal
2023	Knife/bladed (possession)	Possess an article with a blade or point on school/further education premises	15	F	15: Police - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties
2023	Knife/bladed (possession)	Possess an article with a blade or point on school/further education premises	12	F	20: Other body/agency has investigation primacy
2023	Knife/bladed (possession)	Possess an article with a blade or point on school/further	10	M	15: Police - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties

		r education premises			
2023	Knife/blade (used/threatened)	Threaten with a blade or sharply pointed article on school/further education premises	13	M	16: Victim declines/withdraws support - named suspect identified
2023	Knife/bladed (possession)	Possess an article with a blade or point on school/further education premises	14	F	20: Other body/agency has investigation primacy
2023	Knife/blade (used/threatened)	Threaten with a blade or sharply pointed article on school/further education premises	14	M	20: Other body/agency has investigation primacy
2023	Knife/bladed (possession)	Possess an article with a blade or point on school/further education premises	14	M	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.
2023	Knife/bladed (possession)	Possess an article with a blade or point on school/further education premises	14	M	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.
2023	Knife/bladed (possession)	Possess an article with a blade or point on school/further education premises	16	M	15: Police - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties

		r education premises			
2023	Knife/bladed (possession)	Possess an article with a blade or point on school/further education premises	14	F	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.
2023	Knife/bladed (possession)	Possess an article with a blade or point on school/further education premises	14	M	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.
2023	Knife/bladed (possession)	Possess an article with a blade or point on school/further education premises	11	M	20: Other body/agency has investigation primacy
2023	Knife/bladed (possession)	Possess an article with a blade or point on school/further education premises	14	M	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.
2023	Knife/bladed (possession)	Possess an article with a blade or point on school/further education premises	15	F	New

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires 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.

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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.

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

Please contact me if you would like to discuss the withheld information.

Yours sincerely,

Force Disclosure Decision Maker