

**Police Headquarters**

London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

Date: 17th June 2026

Our ref: FOI 2026/492

I write in connection with your request for information dated 28th May 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 I am able to respond as follows.

You wrote:

I am requesting data on knife or sharp instrument offences recorded by your force where the incident took place on the premises of an educational setting attended by under-18s. For the purposes of this request, relevant settings include state-funded primary schools, state-funded secondary schools, special schools, sixth form colleges, further education colleges, and others. Please exclude universities and higher education institutions whose students are predominantly adults.

I am requesting this data for calendar years 2021 to 2025 inclusive, plus 2026 year to date where available.

Specifically, I would like to know the total number of knife or sharp instrument offences at relevant premises broken down by calendar year and by offence type, using the following categories where possible: homicide; attempted murder; threats to kill; assault with injury; assault with intent to cause serious harm; robbery; rape; sexual assault; possession of a bladed article or offensive weapon (s.139 Criminal Justice Act 1988 / s.1 Prevention of Crime Act 1953); and any other relevant offence. Note that some forces record categories that extend beyond knives to include other sharp instruments such as broken glass or needles - please include these but note the broader scope in your response.

I would also like, for any offences involving an assault (i.e. excluding possession-only or threats-only offences), a breakdown of injury severity showing whether the victim sustained no physical injury, minor or moderate physical injury, serious physical injury (including GBH

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or life-threatening injury), fatal injury, or whether injury status was unknown or not recorded. If your force does not record injury severity as a structured field, please indicate this and provide whatever injury-related breakdown is available - for example, by offence classification as a proxy. Please break this down by calendar year.

I would also like, where your force records or can identify the type of setting at which each incident took place, a breakdown of the total figures by setting type: primary school; secondary school; special school; sixth form or FE college; and setting type unknown or not recorded.

Response:

The information relating to the level of injuries is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval.

The crime descriptions listed below are the only crime descriptions we have relating to knife crime at on school or educational premises. Crimes related to injury would be classified as 'assault' or similar. These would not necessarily be linked to the location.

The ascertaining of this information would only be possible by physically reviewing and/or reading the Occurrence / Crime Record on our Niche database for the time period you require.

Given the number of individual crime logs that have been recorded between 2021 – 2026, 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 –

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Grand Total
Offence Description / Reported year							

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Having an article with a blade or point on school premises	9	4					13
Possess an article with a blade or point on school/further education premises		11	12	11	7	12	53
Possess offensive weapon on school premises	6	2					8
Possess offensive weapon on school/further education premises		1	1	1		1	4
Threaten a person with a blade/sharply pointed article on school premises		1					1
Threaten with a blade or sharply pointed article on school/further education premises			2		6	1	9
Grand Total	15	19	15	12	13	14	88

	20 21	20 22	20 23	20 24	20 25	20 26	Grand Total
Type of Setting / Reported year							
COLLEGE		3	4	2	1	1	11
PRIMARY	2		2	2	4	1	11
SECONDARY	13	15	9	7	6	9	59
SPECIAL		1			2	3	6
Unknown				1			1
Grand Total	15	19	15	12	13	14	88

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.

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

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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.

4. Conclusion of the Appeal

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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

Please note that the ICO's offices will be closed for the foreseeable future and are therefore unable to receive correspondence via post.

If you should wish you contact them, please visit <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/>