

**Police Headquarters**

London Road
DEVIZES
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN

Date: 18/06/2026

Our ref: FOI 2026/497

I write in connection with your request for information dated 29/05/2026 concerning knife /sharp instrument offences in educational settings.

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.

I would like to know the outcome recorded for each offence, broken down by calendar year, using the following categories where possible: charged or summonsed (Outcome 1); youth caution - simple caution (Outcome 2); community resolution (Outcome 8); youth conditional caution (Outcome 19); deferred prosecution (Outcome 20); no further action (any NFA outcome - please specify sub-categories where possible); awaiting outcome or open; and any other outcome.

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.

Finally, to understand whether incidents are concentrated in a small number of settings or spread more broadly, I would like an anonymous frequency distribution showing how many settings in your force area recorded 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 or more knife offences over the full period covered by this request (with 5 or more further broken down into 5–9, 10–19, and 20+ where possible). I am not requesting the names or identities of individual settings.

If data for any calendar year is not held in a readily retrievable format, please provide the closest available approximation and note the difference. This request covers offences at any time of day including outside normal hours and term time, and covers offences by or against persons of any age.

Response:

Caveat, please note:

For the months not listed, no data was recorded.

We hold and record the following information relating to possessing offensive weapon on school premises – detection status for crimes under the following offence descriptions (reported dates 01/01/2021 – 31/05/2026):

- Possess offensive weapon on school premises
- Having an article with a blade or point on school premises
- Threaten a person with a blade/sharply pointed article on school premises
- Possess an article with a blade or point on school/further education premises
- Threaten with a blade or sharply pointed article on school/further education premises
- Possess offensive weapon on school/further education premises

Reported month year / Detection status	1: Charged	1: Summoned/postal requisition	11: Named suspect below age of criminal responsibility	15: Police - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties	16: Victim declines/withdraws support - named suspect identified	2: Youth conditional caution	20: Other body/agency has investigation primacy	21: Police - named suspect, investigation not in the public interest	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.	24: Alternate offence youth conditional caution	8: Community resolution	8: Youth restorative disposal	New	Total
2021			1	7			5	1				1		15
Mar							3							3
Apr				1										1
May				2										2
Jul							1							1
Sep				2				1						3
Nov				2			1					1		4
Dec			1											1
2022		1		4			7	1	4		1	1		19
Jan												1		1
Feb				1										1
Mar							1	1			1			3
Apr				1			1							2
May		1					1		4					6
Jun				1			1							2
Nov				1			2							3
Dec							1							1
2023	1			3	1		4	6						15
Jan								1						1
Feb					1									1
Mar				1			1							2
Apr								1						1
May							1	1						2
Jul	1			1										2
Sep							1							1
Oct				1				1						2
Nov							1	1						2
Dec								1						1
2024	1						5	3				3		12
Feb												1		1
Mar							3					1		4
Apr								1						1
May							1							1
Jun	1							1						2
Oct							1	1				1		3
2025			4	1		1	2					5		13
Jan				1										1
Feb							1							1
Mar												2		2
May			1				1							2
Jun												1		1
Sep			1											1
Oct			2			1								3
Nov												1		1
Dec												1		1
2026			1	2		1	1			1		2	6	14
Jan									1			1		2
Feb			1	2									1	4
Mar						1						1	1	3
Apr							1						2	3
May													2	2
Total	2	1	6	17	1	2	24	1	14	1	1	12	6	88

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Type of setting for crimes under the following offence descriptions with reported month / year:-

Possess offensive weapon on school premises

Having an article with a blade or point on school premises

Threaten a person with a blade/sharply pointed article on school premises

Possess an article with a blade or point on school/further education premises

Threaten with a blade or sharply pointed article on school/further education premises

Possess offensive weapon on school/further education premises

Reported month year / Type of setting	COLLEGE	PRIMARY	SECONDARY	SPECIAL	Unknown	Total
2021		2	13			15
Mar			3			3
Apr			1			1
May		1	1			2
Jul			1			1
Sep			3			3
Nov			4			4
Dec		1				1
2022	3		15	1		19
Jan			1			1
Feb	1					1
Mar	1		2			3
Apr			2			2
May			5	1		6
Jun			2			2
Nov	1		2			3
Dec			1			1
2023	4	2	9			15
Jan			1			1
Feb		1				1
Mar	1		1			2
Apr			1			1
May	1		1			2
Jul		1	1			2
Sep	1					1
Oct	1		1			2
Nov			2			2
Dec			1			1
2024	2	2	7		1	12
Feb			1			1
Mar		2	2			4
Apr			1			1
May	1					1
Jun			1		1	2
Oct	1		2			3
2025	1	4	6	2		13
Jan			1			1
Feb			1			1
Mar			2			2
May		2				2
Jun			1			1
Sep				1		1
Oct	1	2				3
Nov			1			1
Dec				1		1
2026	1	1	9	3		14
Jan	1		1			2
Feb			2	2		4
Mar		1	2			3
Apr			2	1		3
May			2			2
Total	11	11	59	6	1	88

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No of crimes for same address (For example - 39 different addresses had 1 crime during the time frame, 6 addresses had 2 crimes etc):

No of crimes for same address	Total
1	39
2	6
3	4
4	2
5 to 9	2

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



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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:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 01625 545 700

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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/>