

9 August 2024

FOI Ref 16276

Request - You asked us the following:

- How many arrests involving a knife or bladed article has your police force made in the past 10 years? Please break this down by year and split by age, gender, and ethnicity of the offender (please contact me for tables as I am unable to attach anything).
- How many confiscations of knives or bladed articles has your police force made in the past 10 years? Please break this down by year and split by age, gender, and ethnicity of the offender (please contact me for tables as I am unable to attach anything).

If it is not possible to provide the information requested due to the information exceeding the cost of compliance limits identified in Section 12, please provide advice and assistance, under the Section 16 obligations of the act, as to how I can refine my request. Furthermore, if you can identify any ways that my request could be refined, I would be grateful for any further advice and assistance.

We received your request on 07/12/2023 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Please find below our response.

Staffordshire Police holds the following requested information.

- How many arrests involving a knife or bladed article has your police force made in the past 10 years? Please break this down by year and split by age, gender, and ethnicity of the offender (please contact me for tables as I am unable to attach anything). – **Partial information held.**
- How many confiscations of knives or bladed articles has your police force made in the past 10 years? Please break this down by year and split by age, gender, and ethnicity of the offender (please contact me for tables as I am unable to attach anything). – **Information held.**

Staffordshire Police discloses the following information.

- How many arrests involving a knife or bladed article has your police force made in the past 10 years? Please break this down by year and split by age, gender, and ethnicity of the offender (please contact me for tables as I am unable to attach anything). – **Partially disclosed, please see accompanying file titled 'FOI 16276 Arrests Involving Knife or Bladed Article data.CSV'.**
- How many confiscations of knives or bladed articles has your police force made in the past 10 years? Please break this down by year and split by age, gender, and ethnicity of the offender (please contact me for tables as I am unable to attach anything). – **Disclosed, please see accompanying file titled 'FOI 16276 Arrests Involving Knife or Bladed Article data.CSV'.**

Please note that on 20th May 2020 Staffordshire Police implemented a new case management system. This system brought data from a number of legacy systems into one to provide a single nominal record, including the custody system. The old custody system has now been decommissioned and as a result there is no search facility to be able to retrieve the requested data.

Please note that this data has been provided to the best of our ability, subject to the limitation of current recording protocols and systems/software. Additional offences may have been recorded during these timescales but are awaiting finalisation and input onto these systems and would not be present within this dataset.

Every effort is made to ensure that the data presented is accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that this has been extracted from multiple sources, developed for specific policing purposes, for which data extraction methods have not been specifically designed to directly correlate with the terminology of this request. Therefore, the data presented is subject to the inaccuracies and idiosyncrasies inherent in any large-scale recording system.

As a consequence, care should be taken in the interpretation and presentation of this data, so as to not misrepresent the whole or any part of the data disclosed.

Due to ongoing backlogs the data for this request has not been extracted within the 20-working day time window, as prescribed within the Freedom of Information Act; therefore, the data now provided may have been subject to legitimate alterations in the intervening timespan.

Next steps

You can ask us to review our response.

If you would like us to carry out a review of our response, please let us know within two months of the date of receipt of this email, review requests should be addressed to:

foi@staffordshire.police.uk

Or by Post to:

Central Disclosure Unit
Staffordshire Police HQ
PO Box 3167
Stafford
ST16 9JZ

Please remember to quote the reference number in any future communications.

Freedom of Information
Central Disclosure Unit