

5 August 2024

FOI Ref 16611

Request - You asked us the following:

I am seeking data on the types of weapons used during robberies in convenience stores. I believe there is a strong public interest for this information to be published due to the safety risk posed to both businesses and members of the public.

Please can you supply the following information:

- 1) The number of businesses who were victims of reported robberies for the periods of 1 January 2022 – 31 December 2022 and 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2023.
- 2) The key search terms I am seeking in relation to the type of business are; convenience store, corner shop, grocery store, supermarket, newsagent, symbol group, tobacconist, off licence and independent retailer.

The key search terms I am seeking in relation to the weapon used are guns, knives, needles, unarmed and blunt weapons (baseball bats, clubs, etc).

- 3) Could you also provide the name the businesses traded under and their address.
- 4) Whether the robber was arrested and their conviction/sentence.

Ideally, I would like these figures broken down month-on-month.

We received your request on 02/04/2024 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Please find below our response.

Staffordshire Police holds the following requested information.

- 1) The number of businesses who were victims of reported robberies for the periods of 1 January 2022 – 31 December 2022 and 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2023. – **Information held.**
- 2) The key search terms I am seeking in relation to the type of business are; convenience store, corner shop, grocery store, supermarket, newsagent, symbol group, tobacconist, off licence and independent retailer.
The key search terms I am seeking in relation to the weapon used are guns, knives, needles, unarmed and blunt weapons (baseball bats, clubs, etc). – **Information held.**
- 3) Could you also provide the name the businesses traded under and their address. – **Information held.**
- 4) Whether the robber was arrested and their conviction/sentence.
Ideally, I would like these figures broken down month-on-month. – **Information held.**



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Staffordshire Police withholds the following information.

- 1) The number of businesses who were victims of reported robberies for the periods of 1 January 2022 – 31 December 2022 and 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2023. – **Withheld.**
- 2) The key search terms I am seeking in relation to the type of business are; convenience store, corner shop, grocery store, supermarket, newsagent, symbol group, tobacconist, off licence and independent retailer.
- 3) The key search terms I am seeking in relation to the weapon used are guns, knives, needles, unarmed and blunt weapons (baseball bats, clubs, etc). – **Withheld.**
- 4) Could you also provide the name the businesses traded under and their address. – **Withheld.**
- 5) Whether the robber was arrested and their conviction/sentence.
Ideally, I would like these figures broken down month-on-month. – **Withheld.**

The above information has been withheld for the following reasons

In accordance with Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, this letter represents a refusal notice for this particular request.

The information can already be found within the public domain.

The following exemptions have been applied:

- Section 21(1) - Information reasonably accessible by other means.
Section 21 is an absolute, class-based exemption and as such there is no requirement to quantify the harm that may arise from the disclosure, nor is there a requirement to perform a Public Interest Test.

Advice and assistance

In order to comply with our obligations under Section 16 of the Act, the obligation to provide advice and assistance, please find below links to the information requested.

- [Published items - 16691 | Staffordshire Police](#)

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:



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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