

13 August 2024

FOI Ref 16856

Request - You asked us the following:

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)

We received your request on 08/05/2024 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Please find below our response.

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

Staffordshire Police withholds the following information.

- 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: – **Withheld.**
- The type of offensive weapon – **Withheld.**
- The type of establishment (e.g primary school, secondary school, college) – **Withheld.**



- The age and sex of the suspect (if known and possible) – **Withheld.**
- The outcome (e.g whether there was an arrest) – **Withheld.**
- 2. How many crimes were recorded in educational establishments in the following calendar years: 2018, 2019, 2022, 2023
For each recorded incident please include: – **Withheld.**
- The type of establishment (e.g primary school, secondary school, college) – **Withheld.**
- The crime type – **Withheld.**
- The age and sex of the suspect (if known and possible) – **Withheld.**

The above information has been withheld for the following reasons:

There is no method by which we can readily retrieve information from our systems to answer this request. For question 1, within the timescale requested, there have been upwards of 3,000 items seized in which either an item descriptor or a location type/subtype have not been recorded within the fields provided, in these instances the information may be recorded within the main body of the occurrence log. Therefore, in order to extract and collate this information a manual review of each of the aforementioned logs would be required. From dip sampling, it has been established that a manual review of each log associated to the seizure of an unidentified weapon or location would take approximately 3 minutes per log. It has been estimated that the research, extraction and collation of data required to answer this request would take approximately 150 hours.

Similarly, with question 2, within the timescale requested, there have been upwards of 114,000 crimes in which the location type/subtype has not been recorded within the fields provided, and therefore these records would all require further manual review. It has been estimated that it would take approximately 3 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to over 5,700 hours. To achieve this task would therefore exceed the 18-hour time and cost threshold of the Freedom of Information Act by some considerable margin.

The following exemptions have been applied:

- Section 12(1) where the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit.
Section 12(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 prescribed limit'.



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

Advice and assistance

Section 16 of the Act places an obligation upon the Authority to provide advice and assistance, in order to comply with this obligation please see below.

Unfortunately, we cannot suggest a way in which your request could be simplified or pared down in order to bring it within the confines of the time and cost threshold.

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