

14 August 2024

FOI Ref 16879

**Request - You asked us the following:**

For each of the following financial years: 2021/22; 2022/23; 2023/24; please provide the following information:

- How many reported crimes involved the use, threat, or presence of a knife or other bladed weapon/article. (Please provide separate figures for each year).
- How many arrests were made for the possession of a knife or other bladed weapon/article. (Please provide separate figures for each year).
- Of those arrested, how many were aged in the following age brackets: 0-5 years; 6-10 years; 11-15 years; 15-20 years. (Please provide separate figures for each age bracket in each year).

**We received your request on 16/05/2024 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).**

**Please find below our response.**

**Staffordshire Police holds the following requested information.**

For each of the following financial years: 2021/22; 2022/23; 2023/24; please provide the following information:

- - How many reported crimes involved the use, threat, or presence of a knife or other bladed weapon/article. (Please provide separate figures for each year). – **Information held.**
- - How many arrests were made for the possession of a knife or other bladed weapon/article. (Please provide separate figures for each year). – **Information held.**
- - Of those arrested, how many were aged in the following age brackets: 0-5 years; 6-10 years; 11-15 years; 15-20 years. (Please provide separate figures for each age bracket in each year). – **Information held.**

**Staffordshire Police discloses/withholds the following information.**

For each of the following financial years: 2021/22; 2022/23; 2023/24; please provide the following information:



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- - How many reported crimes involved the use, threat, or presence of a knife or other bladed weapon/article. (Please provide separate figures for each year). – **Disclosed, please see accompanying file titled FOI 16879 Knife Crime Data.CSV’.**
- - How many arrests were made for the possession of a knife or other bladed weapon/article. (Please provide separate figures for each year). – **Disclosed, please see accompanying file titled FOI 16879 Knife Crime Data.CSV’.**
- - Of those arrested, how many were aged in the following age brackets: 0-5 years; 6-10 years; 11-15 years; 15-20 years. (Please provide separate figures for each age bracket in each year). – **Disclosed, please see accompanying file titled FOI 16879 Knife Crime Data.CSV’.**

**In relation to question 1, data has been provided from our crime/occurrence recording database for all offences receiving a knife crime flag.**

**For question 2 and 3 the data has been provided from the custody management function of the same system for all arrests occurring in the same timescale where the reason for arrest involves the possession of a knife, blade or pointed article.**

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.

### **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](mailto:foi@staffordshire.police.uk)

Or by Post to:

Central Disclosure Unit  
Staffordshire Police HQ



STAFFORDSHIRE  
**POLICE**

PO Box 3167  
Stafford  
ST16 9JZ

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

Freedom of Information  
Central Disclosure Unit