

20 September 2024

FOI Ref 16989

Request - You asked us the following:

1. The number of reports to your police force involving a child (16 and under) threatening a member of staff with an offensive weapon on school premises in the following years:
2022/23
2023/24
2. The number of reports to your police force where a child (16 and under) is in possession of an offensive weapon on school premises in the following years:
2022/23
2023/24
3. The number of reports involving a child (16 and under) physically assaulting a member of staff on school premises in the following years:
2022/23
2023/24
4. If possible please provide a breakdown to the total in Q3 by type of assault. How many were common assault, actual bodily harm, or grievous bodily harm in the following years:
Common Assault:
2022/23
2023/24
Actual bodily Harm:
2022/23
2023/24
Grievous bodily harm:
2022/23
2023/24
5. The number of times a school in your area has reported enforcing a 'lockdown' measure due to threat towards staff and pupils in the following years:
2022/23
2023/24
6. How many of those reports in Q5 involved an intruder for the following years:
2022/23
2023/24

We received your request on 27/06/2024 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.

The above information has been withheld for the following reasons:

There is no method by which we can easily retrieve information from our systems to answer questions 3 and 4 of this request. For the time period requested, there have been in excess of 750 occurrences whereby the offence is listed as Assault. In order to ascertain those relating to physically assaults of members of staff at a school, would require each crime occurrence manually reviewed. In addition to this, questions 5 and 6 takes this request further over the cost threshold as there were 1,820 crimes recorded with "School" as the location and classified as Violence Against the Person, More Serious Violent Crime with Injury, Less Serious Violent Crime with Injury or Possession of weapons. Likewise, in order to identify whether there was a lockdown, each crime would need to be manually reviewed. From dip sampling, it has been estimated that it would take approximately 3 minutes to review each record to answer each part of your request, this would equate to over 128 hours. To achieve this task would therefore exceed the 18-hour time and cost threshold of the FOI 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'.

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.

Should you retract question 3,4, 5 and 6. Data can be provided for for Questions 1 for the offence, 'Threaten with an offensive weapon on a school premises' and whereby the victim aged is under 16 and where this has been recorded as a 'teacher'. Likewise, for question 2, data can be provided for 'Possess a knife or sharply pointed object on school premises' whereby the victim aged is under 16 for you requested time period. However, please note further exemptions may apply.

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



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