

6 September 2024

FOI Ref 17124

Request - You asked us the following:

How many under 18's were searched/cautioned/arrested or charged for an offence or suspected offence where they were in possession of a knife or bladed article in:

2010

2015

2020

2024

How many of the total incidents ended up in a conviction?

We received your request on 05/08/2024 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.

- How many under 18's were searched/cautioned/arrested or charged for an offence or suspected offence where they were in possession of a knife or bladed article in:
- 2010
- 2015
- 2020
- 2024
- How many of the total incidents ended up in a conviction?

The above information has been withheld for the following reasons:

This is because 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. It would entail searching thousands of records to establish if it fitted the criteria of the request. To achieve this task would exceed the 18-hour time and cost threshold stipulated by the FOI Act.

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.

Staffordshire Police can provide information relating to arrests, cautions, charges and positive searches of under 18s for an offence or suspected offence where they were in possession of a knife or bladed article for the following date ranges:

- 1st May 2020 – 31st December 2020
- 1st January 2024 – 5th August 2024.

Please note that Staffordshire Police do not hold conviction data. You may find the information you require via the Government HM Courts and Tribunals Service website gov.uk.

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



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

ST16 9JZ

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

Freedom of Information
Central Disclosure Unit