

25 August 2025

FOI Ref 21725

Request - You asked us the following:

Under the Freedom of Information Act, please provide the following information broken down by the school academic years 2022-2023, 2023-2024 and 2024-2025.

1. The number of pupils aged 18 and under recorded as being in possession of an offensive weapon on a school premises (primary and secondary schools only) during the academic years outlined above.
2. Please provide a breakdown of the number of offences which took place in a primary school setting and the number of offences which took place in a secondary school setting
3. A list of the type of weapons involved - i.e – knife, machete, knuckle duster, firearm, hammer etc
4. A breakdown of the ages of pupils involved provided in the following two age categories:

Age 4-11

Age 12-18

5. The age of the youngest pupil recorded as being in possession of an offensive weapon on school premises (primary and secondary schools only) for the academic years outlined above (this does not need to be broken down by academic year) and the type of weapon involved.

We received your request on 11/08/2025 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Staffordshire Police's response to your enquiry is as follows:

Staffordshire Police holds the requested information.

Under the Freedom of Information Act, please provide the following information broken down by the school academic years 2022-2023, 2023-2024 and 2024-2025.

- 1 - The number of pupils aged 18 and under recorded as being in possession of an offensive weapon on a school premises (primary and secondary schools only) during the academic years outlined above. – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 21725 Weapons in Schools Data.xlsx'.**
- 2 – Please provide a breakdown of the number of offences which took place in a primary school setting and the number of offences which took place in a secondary school setting – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 21725 Weapons in Schools Data.xlsx'.**

- 2- A list of the type of weapons involved - i.e – knife, machete, knuckle duster, firearm, hammer etc – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled ‘FOI 21725 Weapons in Schools Data.xlsx’.**
- 3 – A breakdown of the ages of pupils involved provided in the following two age categories:
Age 4-11
Age 12-18 – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled ‘FOI 21725 Weapons in Schools Data.xlsx’.**
- 4 – The age of the youngest pupil recorded as being in possession of an offensive weapon on school premises (primary and secondary schools only) for the academic years outlined above (this does not need to be broken down by academic year) and the type of weapon involved. – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled ‘FOI 21725 Weapons in Schools Data.xlsx’.**

Please note that the data has been retrieved from a search of our crime/occurrence recording systems for the time period 01/09/2022 – 11/08/2025 for the offences of ‘Possession of other offensive weapon on school/further education premises’ and ‘Having an article with a blade or point on school/further education premises’. Data has only been provided where the location of the occurrence has been specifically recorded as a primary or secondary school.

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/incidents 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.

Please be advised that all Freedom of Information request responses are published on the Staffordshire Police website although personal details are not included.

Freedom of Information Request Appeals Procedure

1. Who Can Ask for a Review

Any person who has requested information from Staffordshire Police, which has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act, is entitled to complain and request an internal review, if they are dissatisfied with the response they received.

2. How to Request a Review



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

Requests for review of a Freedom of Information request must be made in writing within two months of the date of receipt of this email, and should be addressed to:

foi@staffordshire.police.uk

Or by Post to:

Central Disclosure Unit
Staffordshire Police HQ
PO Box 3167
Stafford
ST16 9JZ

The reference number, date of the request and details of why the review is being requested must be included. Requests for review should be brought to the attention of the Central Disclosure Unit within two months of the Force's response to the original FOI request.

1. Review Procedure

Receipt of a request for review will be acknowledged in writing. The review will be conducted by a Supervisor who is independent from the original Decision Maker. The Central Disclosure Unit will set a target date for a response. The response will be made as soon as is practicable with the intention to complete the review within 20 working days. In more complex cases the review may take up to 40 working days.

The independent Supervisor will conduct a review of the handling of the request for information and of decisions taken, including decisions taken about where the public interest lies in respect of exempt information where applicable. The review enables a re-evaluation of the case, taking into account the matters raised by the complaint.

2. Conclusion of the Appeal

On completion of the review the Independent Supervisor will reply to the appellant with the result of the review. If the appellant is still dissatisfied following the review they should contact the Information Commissioner to make an appeal. The Information Commissioner can be contacted via the following link: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/foi-and-eir-complaints/foi-and-eir-complaints/>

Freedom of Information
Central Disclosure Unit