

27 February 2026

FOI Ref 22517

Request - You asked Staffordshire Police (SP) the following:

Under the FOI Act, please provide me with the following information on knife crime in schools. Please do not refer me to previous similar data sets, as I'm looking for the exact data requested.

Q1: For the years 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 and 2025 the number of offences involving a knife committed at schools?

Q2: For the years 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 and 2025 the number of offences involving a knife at school broken down by offence subgroup as per the Home Office counting rules?

Q3: For the years 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 and 2025 the number of suspects for offences involving a knife committed at schools broken down by age and sex of the suspect?

Q4: For the years 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 and 2025 the number of offences involving a knife committed at schools broken down by how the suspect knows the victim?

Q5: For the years 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 and 2025 the number of suspects for offences involving a knife committed at schools broken down by age and sex of the victim?

SP received your request on 11/02/2026 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

SP's response to your enquiry is as follows:

SP holds the requested information.

- Q1: For the years 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 and 2025 the number of offences involving a knife committed at schools? – **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 22517 School Knife Crime Data'.**
- Q2: For the years 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 and 2025 the number of offences involving a knife at school broken down by offence subgroup as per the Home Office counting rules? – **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 22517 School Knife Crime Data'**
- Q3: For the years 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 and 2025 the number of suspects for offences involving a knife committed at schools broken down by age and sex of the suspect? – **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 22517 School Knife Crime Data'**
- Q4: For the years 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 and 2025 the number of offences involving a knife committed at schools broken down by how the suspect knows the victim? – **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 22517 School Knife Crime Data'**
- Q5: For the years 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 and 2025 the number of suspects for offences involving a knife committed at schools broken down by age and sex of the victim? – **Partially disclosed, please see the accompanying file entitled 'FOI 22517 School Knife Crime Data'**

Please be advised that this data has been extracted from our Crime/Occurrence Recording System for knife-crime offences occurring in schools. For Question 4, a manual trawl of the occurrences has been carried out in order to determine the relationship between each suspect and victim.

Please note that there are 2 offences that are still being investigated so with regard to these cases we are citing Section 30(1)(a)(b) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Investigations conducted by Public Authorities.

The following exemption has been applied:

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

- Section 30(1)(a)(b) – Criminal Investigations

Section 30 is qualified and class based and, as such, we are required to apply the public interest test.

Public Interest Test

Factors favouring disclosure under Section 30(1)(a)(b)

Disclosure of the information would improve the public's knowledge and understanding of the investigatory process and, as all police investigations are publicly funded, would show how public funds are being spent.

Factors favouring non-disclosure under Section 30(1)(a)(b)

Disclosure of the requested information would prejudice how investigations are carried out in the future. SP is charged with enforcing the law, preventing and detecting crime and protecting the communities we serve. Any release of information relating to ongoing investigations could prejudice and undermine those investigations. The prevention and detection of such matters could therefore be hindered and therefore risk interference with evidence, which could have detrimental impact on future investigations. In addition, the right to a fair trial could be undermined.

Balance test

Disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act is a release of information to the world in general and not an individual applicant. Having considered the public interest factors we are required to determine whether on balance the factors favouring disclosure outweigh those which are against disclosure. It is our view that the factors favouring disclosure do not outweigh those which favour non-disclosure.

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

Freedom of Information Request Appeals Procedure

1. Who Can Ask for a Review



STAFFORDSHIRE
POLICE

Any person who has requested information from SP, 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

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:

IAT@staffordshire.police.uk

Or by Post to:

Information Access Team
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 Information Access Team within two months of the Force's response to the original FOI request.

3. 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 Information Access Team 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.

4. 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
Information Access Team