

3 June 2026

FOI Ref 22928

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

I am requesting data on knife or sharp instrument offences recorded by your force where the incident took place on the premises of an educational setting attended by under-18s. For the purposes of this request, relevant settings include state-funded primary schools, state-funded secondary schools, special schools, sixth form colleges, further education colleges, and others. Please exclude universities and higher education institutions whose students are predominantly adults.

I am requesting this data for calendar years 2021 to 2025 inclusive, plus 2026 year to date where available.

Specifically, I would like to know the total number of knife or sharp instrument offences at relevant premises broken down by calendar year and by offence type, using the following categories where possible: homicide; attempted murder; threats to kill; assault with injury; assault with intent to cause serious harm; robbery; rape; sexual assault; possession of a bladed article or offensive weapon (s.139 Criminal Justice Act 1988 / s.1 Prevention of Crime Act 1953); and any other relevant offence. Note that some forces record categories that extend beyond knives to include other sharp instruments such as broken glass or needles - please include these but note the broader scope in your response.

I would also like, for any offences involving an assault (i.e. excluding possession-only or threats-only offences), a breakdown of injury severity showing whether the victim sustained no physical injury, minor or moderate physical injury, serious physical injury (including GBH or life-threatening injury), fatal injury, or whether injury status was unknown or not recorded. If your force does not record injury severity as a structured field, please indicate this and provide whatever injury-related breakdown is available - for example, by offence classification as a proxy. Please break this down by calendar year.

I would also like, where your force records or can identify the type of setting at which each incident took place, a breakdown of the total figures by setting type: primary school; secondary school; special school; sixth form or FE college; and setting type unknown or not recorded.

If data for any calendar year is not held in a readily retrievable format, please provide the closest available approximation and note the difference.

SP received your request on 28/05/2026 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.

- I am requesting data on knife or sharp instrument offences recorded by your force where the incident took place on the premises of an educational setting attended by under-18s. For the purposes of this request, relevant settings include state-funded primary schools, state-funded



secondary schools, special schools, sixth form colleges, further education colleges, and others. Please exclude universities and higher education institutions whose students are predominantly adults.

- I am requesting this data for calendar years 2021 to 2025 inclusive, plus 2026 year to date where available.
- Specifically, I would like to know the total number of knife or sharp instrument offences at relevant premises broken down by calendar year and by offence type, using the following categories where possible: homicide; attempted murder; threats to kill; assault with injury; assault with intent to cause serious harm; robbery; rape; sexual assault; possession of a bladed article or offensive weapon (s.139 Criminal Justice Act 1988 / s.1 Prevention of Crime Act 1953); and any other relevant offence. Note that some forces record categories that extend beyond knives to include other sharp instruments such as broken glass or needles - please include these but note the broader scope in your response.
- I would also like, for any offences involving an assault (i.e. excluding possession-only or threats-only offences), a breakdown of injury severity showing whether the victim sustained no physical injury, minor or moderate physical injury, serious physical injury (including GBH or life-threatening injury), fatal injury, or whether injury status was unknown or not recorded. If your force does not record injury severity as a structured field, please indicate this and provide whatever injury-related breakdown is available - for example, by offence classification as a proxy. Please break this down by calendar year.
- I would also like, where your force records or can identify the type of setting at which each incident took place, a breakdown of the total figures by setting type: primary school; secondary school; special school; sixth form or FE college; and setting type unknown or not recorded.
- If data for any calendar year is not held in a readily retrievable format, please provide the closest available approximation and note the difference.
- **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled 'FOI 22928 Knife or Sharp Instrument Offences Data'.**

Please note that there are 2 offences that are still being investigated so with regard to these cases Section 30(1)(a)(b) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 has been applied – Investigations conducted by Public Authorities. These offences have not been included in the dataset.

Please note that the data has been provided in uncorrelated tables to avoid identification. Please also note that the data provided may not necessarily relate to knives only and will also include sharp instruments/weapons. The location type has been provided where the terms 'primary school', 'high/secondary school', 'special school', 'sixth form' or 'college' have been recorded in the occurrence address. The injury type has been provided for violent offences where these have been recorded in the occurrence log.

Please be advised that the data has been provided for all offences where the knife crime flag has been marked as yes and whereby the MO location premise was recorded as 'school' or 'college'. Additionally, the specific offences of 'Having an article with a blade or point on school/further education premises',

'Possession of other offensive weapon on school/further education premises', 'Threaten with a blade or sharply pointed article on school/further education premises' and 'Threaten with an offensive weapon on school/further education premises' have also been included.

Please note that this data has been provided to the best of the ability of SP, 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.

Consequently, care should be taken in the interpretation and presentation of this data, 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 SP website although personal details are not included.

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 part of 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 SP serves. Any release of information relating to ongoing investigations could prejudice and undermine those investigations. The prevention and detection of such matters could be hindered and 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 SP are required to determine whether on balance the factors favouring disclosure outweigh those which are against disclosure. It is SP's view that the factors favouring disclosure do not outweigh those which favour non-disclosure.

Freedom of Information Request Appeals Procedure

1. Who Can Ask for a Review

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 SP 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 twenty working days. In more complex cases the review may take up to forty 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, considering 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



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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