



Our Ref: 004090/23
Address Correspondence to: Information Management
Date: 07 November 2023

Freedom of Information Act 2000

I write further to your request for information received 16/10/2023. Following receipt of your request, searches were conducted within Leicestershire Police to locate information relevant to your request.

I can confirm, pursuant to s1(1)(a) of FOIA that this Force does hold the information you have requested.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Leicestershire Police, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which: (a) states that fact, (b) specifies the exemption in question and (c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

The exemption(s) applicable to the information are as follows.

Section 12 – Cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit.

The information you have requested for questions 2 and 3 is not held in an electronically retrievable format. Whilst weapons are logged, they are categorised into groups and the specific detail would be held within the body of each crime report. To put this into context, over the period you have requested, there are 229 records which could potentially relate to the use of a knuckleduster but to ascertain whether they are actually relevant would need an Analyst to sit and review each log one by one. This would need to be completed for each of the weapons specified.

In order to retrieve the information you have requested would therefore be in excess of the 18 hours specified by the Home Office as the time period for which a police force should allocate to a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

In the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004, the current regulatory limit which has been set by the Secretary of State for public authorities, which includes the police service, is £450 for the marginal costs which are the costs of finding, sorting, editing or redacting information and disbursements (printing, photocopying etc). The Association of Chief Police Officers have agreed a national standard of an hourly rate of £25 is to be charged for the time taken. In essence therefore, the costs equate to 18 hours work per request. It will be apparent therefore that within the time frame of 18 hours it will not be possible to extract the information to answer any of your questions.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice under s12(1) as the cost of providing you with the information is above the amount to which we are legally required to respond i.e. the cost of locating and

retrieving the information exceeds the “appropriate level” as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004.

1. The total number of knife crimes recorded each year from 2013 to date, broken down by year

Total Knife Crimes Logged (Per Year)					
2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
103	125	1321	1233	1428	2515
2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
2806	2479	2447	2521	1904	18882

2. Of these, over the same time period broken down by year, how many involved the use of a prohibited offensive weapon or blade, such as a zombie knife or machete, or other specified offensive weapon as per the The Criminal Justice Act (Offensive Weapons)
 - [Section 12]
3. If possible, please provide a breakdown of these by type of offensive weapon
 - [Section 12]

Please be advised that records older than 6 years are subject to the Management of Police Information (MOPI) regulations. Due to weeding, any data preceding this date may not be a wholly accurate reflection of the total actual figures at the time. For more information on MOPI guidelines, please refer to the Review, Retention and Disposal section of the College of Policing website below;

<https://www.college.police.uk/app/information-management/management-police-information/retention-review-and-disposal>.

Leicestershire Police provides you the right to ask for a re-examination of your request under its review procedure. Letters should be addressed to Information Manager, Corporate Services Department at the above address. If you decide to request such a review and having followed the Force’s full process you are still dissatisfied, then you have the right to direct your comments to the Information Commissioner who will give it consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Freedom of Information Officer

Leicestershire Police

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