

21st November 2018

Freedom of Information Request – Reference No:20182016

REQUEST

How many offences involving a knife or bladed weapon were recorded by your force between 1st October 2017 and 1st October 2018.

Of these offences in this time period, how many involved were under 21.

What was the youngest age of a person arrested for an offence involving a knife or bladed weapon between 1st October 2017 and 1st October 2018.

RESPONSE

I approached our Crime Management Data Returns Administrator for assistance with your request. The CMS system and Connect System is used to record complaints or allegations of those matters, which the Home Office specify should be recorded as 'crimes'.

She conducted a search of the two crime management systems. (CMS - our legacy system which provides data up to 4th December 2017 and our new CONNECT system which records crimes from that date onwards)

For FOI requests such as this, we access the two separate systems and the retrieval and data extraction varies greatly dependant on the search capabilities and the inputted data. The information you receive therefore may be in two different formats depending on your time parameters, and the data we can provide which will be dependent on the search capabilities of each system. All our systems are designed and used first and foremost for Policing Purposes and have limited search capability.

She provided me with the enclosed spreadsheet and the following explanation of her search criteria:

Please see the attached data and the below caveats.

CMS Data

I have included a count of offence recorded on the CMS(ii) crime register between 01-Oct-2017 and 04-Dec-2017 where the Home Office offence class is as specified for the Knife Crime Home Office data return, but also including murder (which is not included in the return and where the following conditions were applied:

Please note – of the offence count, I have also included a breakdown of the offender's age if the offender was under 21 at the time to of offence.

- *Weapon Usage is:*
 - *Concealed but Victim Threatened;*
 - *Implement Used as Physical Threat;*
 - *Stabbing/Slashing/Puncture/Pierce;*
 - *Cutting;*
 - *Glassing.*

- *Weapon Type is one of the following:*

- *Axe;*
- *Baseball Bat Adapted – Blade Inserted;*
- *Broken Bottle;*
- *Broken Glass Object;*
- *Crossbow/Bow and Arrow;*
- *Cutlery – Fork;*
- *Dart;*
- *Flick/Lock Knife;*
- *Hatchet;*
- *Hypodermic Needle/Syringe;*
- *Kitchen Knife;*
- *Knife/Dagger;*
- *Lock Knife;*
- *Machete;*
- *Meat Cleaver;*
- *Needle, Pin (not hypodermic needle);*
- *Other Sharp/Pointed Instrument;*
- *Pen Knife;*
- *Razor/Razor Blade;*
- *Saw;*
- *Scalpel;*
- *Scissors;*
- *Stanley Knife/Blade;*
- *Sword/Bayonet.*

CONNECT Data

It should be noted that:

Unfortunately currently, we are unable to retrieve Offender data from the Connect System. Performance Management Unit has taken the decision that we are unable to provide data regarding suspects i.e. outcomes, ages, gender etc. due to data quality and accuracy issues. However, we can provide the offence outcomes.

I have included a count of offence recorded on CONNECT for crime between 05-Dec-2017 and 01-Oct-2018 where the Home Office offence class is as specified for the Knife Crime Home Office data return, but also including murder (which is not included in the return and where the following conditions were applied:

- *MO Description 3 is any of the following:*
 - *Knife – Carpet/Model/Stanley;*
 - *Knife;*
 - *Crossbow;*
 - *Dart – Kung Fu Star;*
 - *Machete;*
 - *Razor;*
 - *Saw;*
 - *Scissors;*
 - *Sharp Instrument;*
 - *Syringe;*
 - *Sword – Swordstick;*
 - *Axe;*
 - *Bottle – Broken.*

Please note the breakdown for October 2018 only includes data for 01-Oct-2018.

Please note:

- More than one weapon type may be recorded on some offences therefore we would expect a count of weapons to exceed a count of offences. For the purpose of this request, I have searched for offences where a 'KNIFE' has been recorded as above, however other weapon types may be recorded on the crime report and therefore each offence would have to be reviewed to establish if the knife was the weapon used to cause injury.*
- We have had to take a slightly different approach to extracting the data from CONNECT as the data is not recorded in the same format as the legacy system CMS(ii). SYP have changed their central crime management system in December 2017. Therefore data from the new system cannot be used as a direct comparison due to the different ways in which crimes are recorded. However, the data has been given to comply with original request and displayed here to show an outline trend.*