

21st December 2018

**Freedom of Information Request – Reference No:20182228**

**REQUEST**

*I would like to request a breakdown of the knife and sharp instrument offences in your constabulary by ethnicity and age of the offender and by calendar year for the last three years.*

*In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act (2000) please may you supply me with the police recorded numbers for:*

*1) The ethnicity of the offender for these six knife and sharp instrument offences, (as identified in ONS data '[Year Ending June 2018](#)' - Table P4: Knife and sharp instrument offences recorded by the police for selected offences, by police force area, English regions and Wales, year ending June 2018):*

- a) Assault with injury and assault with intent to cause serious harm,*
- b) Rape and sexual assault,*
- c) Homicide,*
- d) Attempted Murder,*
- e) Robbery and*
- f) Possession (please use total possession of the four Home Office possession [counts named here](#)).*

*Can you please categorise these for 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively and break each offence down by the ethnicity of the offender e.g: White, Black, Asian, Mixed and other.*

*2) The age of the offender for these six knife and sharp instrument offences, (as identified in ONS data '[Year Ending June 2018](#)' - Table P4: Knife and sharp instrument offences recorded by the police for selected offences, by police force area, English regions and Wales, year ending June 2018):*

- a) Assault with injury and assault with intent to cause serious harm,*
- b) Rape and sexual assault,*
- c) Homicide,*
- d) Attempted Murder and*
- e) Robbery and*
- f) Possession (please use total possession of the four Home Office possession [counts named here](#)).*

*Can you please categorise these for 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively and break them down by whether the offender is 'under 18' or '18 and over'.*

**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 explanation of each sheet -*

**CMS(ii) Data –**

*I have searched CMS(ii) for offences recorded on the Crime Register between 01-Jan-2016 and 04-Dec-2017 and have provided a count of the below Home Office offence classes, which are included within the Home Office data return for Knife crime, however in addition to these offences I have also included the Home Office Class Murder, which is not included in the Knife Crime return.*

*I have based the conditions of the query on the following –*

*Where the Home Office Class is –*

HOME OFFICE OFFENCE CLASS
ASSAULT WITH INJURY
ASSAULT WITH INJURY ON A CONSTABLE
ASSAULT WITH INTENT TO CAUSE SERIOUS HARM
ATTEMPT MURDER
ENDANGERING LIFE
MURDER
RACIALLY OR RELIGIOUSLY AGGRAVATED ASSAULT WITH INJURY
RAPE
ROBBERY
SEXUAL ASSAULT
THREATS TO KILL

*And the weapon type is either of the following -*

<i>Weapon Type</i>
AXE
BASEBALL BAT ADAPTED - BLADE INSERTED
BROKEN BOTTLE
BROKEN GLASS OBJECT
CROSSBOW / BOW AND ARROW
CUTLERY - FORK
DART
FLICK / LOCK KNIFE
FLICK 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 / RAZORBLADE
SAW
SCALPEL
SCISSORS
STANLEY KNIFE / BLADE
SWORD/BAYONET

*And the Weapon Usage is –*

<i>Weapon Usage</i>
CONCEALED BUT VICTIM THREATENED
CUTTING
GLASSING
IMPLEMENT USED AS A PHYSICAL THREAT
STABBING/SLASHING/PUNCTURE/PIERCE

*Please note – more than one weapon type may be recorded on some offences type, 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.*

**CMS(ii) Offender Data**

**Can you please categorise these for 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively and break each offence down by the ethnicity of the offender e.g: White, Black, Asian, Mixed and other.**

**Can you please categorise these for 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively and break them down by whether the offender is 'under 18' or '18 and over'.**

*Of the offence count, I have provided a count of named offenders by Home Office offence class and ethnicity. I have also a breakdown of the by age groups – Under 18 and Over 18. **Please note – we do not expect a count of offenders to reflect a count of offences as more than one offender may be recorded on some offences and some offences may not be recorded with an offender.***

### **CONNECT DATA -**

*I have provided a count of the specified offences as above, recorded on the CONNECT system between 05-Dec-2017 – 30-Nov-2018 where an offence was recorded with the MO DESC1 'Instrument used' orland 'MO DESC3 'Knife'.*

*Please note –*

- I have not been able to provide data regarding offenders in CONNECT due to the ongoing issues. As previously stated, PMU 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 and because the query would be based on the offender's outcome in order to identify the relationship of the suspect to the victim, I cannot currently fulfil this request for CONNECT.*
- I 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).*
- By "KNIFE" I mean what is recorded as a sharp instrument in accordance with the Home Office Definition of knife.*
- 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.*
- The figures have been extracted from live crime management systems and therefore could be subject to change and may not reflect previously released data.*