

5<sup>th</sup> April 2019

**Freedom of Information Request – Reference No:20190548**

**REQUEST**

***Beginning in the calendar year 2015, can you please provide an up-to-date, month-by-month breakdown of:***

***1. The number of crimes, where the offence location is recorded as 'school', for the following offences:***

- Possess offensive weapon***
- Possess offensive weapon on school premises***
- Threaten with offensive weapon on school premises***
- Possess firearm etc with intent to endanger life***
- GBH Wounding.***
- Attempted murder/murder***

***2. The type of weapon used***

***3. The age and gender of the offenders and whether they were charged.***

***4. The name of the school, where possible***

**CLARIFICATION**

South Yorkshire Police has received a number of similar requests to yours in the past.

<https://www.southyorkshire.police.uk/find-out/accessing-information/request-information-under-the-freedom-of-information-act/schools-crime-stats-ref-20180503/>

<https://www.southyorkshire.police.uk/find-out/accessing-information/request-information-under-the-freedom-of-information-act/crime-stats-in-schools-ref-20180775/>

**FROM THE REQUESTER**

***I have reviewed the date disclosed from previous requests and while it does help it doesn't account for the whole of 2018. With that in mind, can I please have the data from January 2015 to January 2019 using the parameters set out in my original request.***

**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) Due to difficulties with the way in which the data is extracted, data from our new CONNECT system is currently presented separately.

Using the criteria above our Crime Analyst has provided me with the raw data which meets the criteria of your request.

As such, I can confirm that South Yorkshire Police holds information relating to the criteria of your request, but having reviewed this in detail, I am not prepared to disclose this to you in full.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires South Yorkshire 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 following exemption applies to the disclosure of the information:

#### **Section 40 (2) – Personal Information**

This is an absolute exemption and therefore a Public Interest Test is not relevant. However, for clarity, I will explain my rationale for engaging this exemption.

Section 40(2) provides that information is exempt if it is the personal data of someone other than the applicant and disclosure would breach any of the data protection principles. The term 'personal data' means data that relates to a living individual who can be identified. This may take an obvious form of 'personal information' such as a name but can also include information which, if aggregated, can pinpoint an individual.

With this in mind, whilst not explicitly naming individuals, the cumulative effect of a full disclosure i.e. year, offender details, the name of the school, and the nature of the incident reported, would present the very real possibility of individuals involved being identified.

It is important to note also that the name of the school would ordinarily be provided within the House details field of the crime scene which is not a mandated field. This field is also a free text field which, if completed, results in different variations of the spelling and wording of specific school names. This makes variations in the names of individual schools difficult to capture resulting in incomplete and potentially misleading data.

Aside from these issues however, I am prepared to disclose most of the requested data on the attached spreadsheet which should be read alongside the following search criteria:

*Please see the attached data and the below explanation.*

*The request was not in clear in terms of what Possession offences were to be included, therefore we have included all offences recorded under the following Home Office Offence classes –*

|     | Ho Class | Ho Class Code | Ho Description                            |
|-----|----------|---------------|---|
| ▶ 1 | 1        | 1             | MURDER                                    |
| ▶ 2 | 10A      | 10.1          | POSSESSION OF FIREARMS WITH INTENT        |
| ▶ 3 | 10B      | 10.2          | POSSESSION OF FIREARMS OFFENCES           |
| ▶ 4 | 10C      | 10.3          | POSSESSION OF OTHER WEAPONS               |
| ▶ 5 | 10D      | 10.4          | POSSESSION OF ARTICLE WITH BLADE OR POINT |
| ▶ 6 | 2        | 2             | ATTEMPT MURDER                            |
| ▶ 7 | 4.1      | 4.1           | MANSLAUGHTER                              |
| ▶ 8 | 5D       | 5.4           | ASSAULT WITH INTENT TO CAUSE SERIOUS HARM |
| ▶ 9 | 8N       | 8.13          | ASSAULT WITH INJURY                       |

### CMS(ii) data

Q1 – I have provided a count of offences recorded on CMS(ii) Crime Register where the HO Class Code is 10A, 10B, 10C and 10D or the HO Description is 'ASSAULT WITH INJURY', 'ASSAULT WITH INTENT TO CAUSE SERIOUS HARM', 'ATTEMPT MURDER', 'MURDER', 'MANSLAUGHTER', broken down by Offence Recorded and where the Premises Type is in either 'SCHOOL / COLLEGE' OR 'NURSERY SCHOOL / PRE-SCHOOL'.

Statistics date between 01-Jan-2015 and 05-DEC-2017, broken down by calendar year and month.

Q2 – Of the above offences, I have provided a count of Weapons broken down by Weapon Types that have been 'USED'. As the requester has not be specific regarding weapon types, this data set includes all weapon types recorded with a USED flag.

Q3 – I have provided a count of Offenders recorded on CMS(ii) Crime Register where the HO Class Code is 10A, 10B, 10C and 10D or the HO Description is 'ASSAULT WITH INJURY', 'ASSAULT WITH INTENT TO CAUSE SERIOUS HARM', 'ATTEMPT MURDER', 'MURDER', 'MANSLAUGHTER', and where the Premises Type is in either 'SCHOOL / COLLEGE' OR 'NURSERY SCHOOL / PRE-SCHOOL', broken down by Offender Outcome, Age and Gender. Please note – we expect a count of offenders to exceed a count of offences as more than one offender can be recorded on any offence.

### CONNECT Data –

I cannot currently fulfil Q3 of the request for CONNECT, as I cannot provide data regarding offenders 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, ethnicity etc. due to data quality and accuracy issues.

I cannot fulfil Q2 because the weapon & weapon usage are not recorded on CONNECT as they were in CMS(ii). Therefore without reviewing the circumstances of each offence, I cannot accurately how the weapon was used. Any request for data prior until the commencement of CONNECT 04-DEC-2017 could be broken down by weapon & weapon usage as these were pick list tables within CMS(ii) therefore we could identify weapons and how they were used.

*However, I have included a count of the specified offences, recorded for CONNECT Crime between 04-Dec-2017 and 28-Feb-2019 where the MO DESC 1 is Location & MO DESC 3 is SCHOOL or NURSERY or the Premises type is SCHOOL or CHILDRENS NURSERY. Of this count.*