



Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 004134-18

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 8 November 2018 in which you sought access to the following information:

1. *“How many pupils were caught in possession of offensive weapons in schools in financial years 2009/10 – 2017/18.*

Please give a breakdown on how many of these were knives or sharp objects

How many of these cases were in:

- a) *In primary schools*
- b) *In secondary schools*

Please give details for the latest financial year

2. *How many pupils were arrested for assault with a knife or a sharp object in schools in financial years 2009/10 – 2017/18*
3. *How many dedicated police do you have located at schools (FTE) in financial years 2009/10 – 2017/18”*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 15 November 2018

Suffolk Constabulary has considered your request for information and the response is below.

A search has been completed of the Constabulary’s crime system for all possession offences that relate specifically to schools, which includes the following crimes:

- Having an article with a blade or point on school premises
- Possession of other offensive weapon on school premises
- Threaten with a blade or sharply pointed article on school premises
- Threaten with an offensive weapon on school premises

Each offence was reviewed to ensure the offence related to a pupil in possession of a blade or point and it occurred at either a primary or secondary school. Colleges and pupil referral units have been removed from this data.

1. The total number of investigations concerning schools and possession of a weapon or bladed instrument offences, were as follows:

School / Offence	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18
Primary									
Having an article with a blade or point on school premises							1	2	3
Possession of other offensive weapon on school premises						1			
Threaten with a blade or sharply pointed article on school premises								1	
Threaten with an offensive weapon on school premises									1
Secondary									
Having an article with a blade or point on school premises	1	3	2	2	1	1	6	13	14
Possession of other offensive weapon on school premises	1	2	2			5	2	2	2
Threaten with a blade or sharply pointed article on school premises								2	2
Grand Total	2	5	4	2	1	7	9	20	22

This is broken down by knives / sharp objects as follows, where recorded:

School / Object	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18
Primary									
Knife						1	1	3	1
Knife/sharp									1
Not recorded									2
Secondary									
Knife	2	5	3	1	1	5	6	10	7
Sharp			1	1		1			1
Not recorded							2	7	10
Grand Total	2	5	4	2	1	7	9	20	22

2. The total number of persons arrested for assault with a blade or sharp object on school premises, is provided below. Please note that this data is not linked to that provided in question 1.

Offence / Year	Knife
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Assault with Injury - Assault occasioning actual bodily harm	
2015/16	1
Assault without Injury - Common assault and battery	
2017/18	1
Grand Total	2

3. Suffolk Constabulary only holds information from 2012 onwards. There are no police officer roles that are specifically named school liaison officers. The Constabulary currently has 3 PCSO school liaison officers, previous figures as follows:

Date	PCSOs
2018	4
2017	3
2016	3
2015	3
2014	3
2013	3
2012	7

Should you have any further queries concerning this request, please contact Clair Pack, FOI Decision Maker, quoting the reference number shown above.

A full copy of the Freedom of Information Act (2000) can be viewed on the 'Office of Public Sector Information' web-site;
<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/>

Suffolk Constabulary is not responsible for the content, or the reliability, of the website referenced. The Constabulary cannot guarantee that this link will work all of the time, and we have no control over the availability of the linked pages.



Your Right to Request a Review of Decisions Made Under the Terms of the
Freedom of Information Act (2000).

If you are unhappy with how your request has been handled, or if you think the decision is incorrect, you have the right to ask Suffolk Constabulary to review their decision.

Ask Suffolk Constabulary to look at the decision again.

If you are dissatisfied with the decision made by Suffolk Constabulary under the Freedom of Information Act (2000), regarding access to information, you must notify Suffolk Constabulary that you are requesting a review within 40 working days of the date of its response to your Freedom of Information request. Requests for a review should be made in writing and addressed to:

*Freedom of Information Decision Maker
Information Management Department
Suffolk Constabulary
Police Headquarters
Martlesham Heath
Ipswich
Suffolk
IP5 3QS
OR
Email: information@suffolk.pnn.police.uk*

In all possible circumstances Suffolk Constabulary will aim to respond to your request for us to look at our decision again within 20 working days of receipt of your request for an internal review.

The Information Commissioner.

After lodging a request for a review with Suffolk Constabulary, if you are still dissatisfied with the decision, you can apply to the Information Commissioner for a decision on whether the request for information has been dealt with in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

For information on how to make application to the Information Commissioner please visit their website at www.ico.org.uk or contact them at the address shown below:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Telephone: 01625 545 700