

Our Ref: 009374/16



Freedom of Information Section
Nottinghamshire Police HQ
Sherwood Lodge, Arnold
Nottingham NG5 8PP

Tel: 101
Ext 800 2507
Fax: 0115 967 2896

25 January 2017

Dear

Request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)

I write in connection with your request for information, which was received by Nottinghamshire Police on 22/12/2016.

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Nottinghamshire Police to locate the information you require.

RESPONSE

Under S 1 (1) (a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), I can confirm that Nottinghamshire Police does hold the information you have requested.

Please find below answers to your questions:-

Under the Freedom of Information Act I would like to request the following information:

How many weapons and/or explosives have been seized over the last three years whereby the location was `school.¿

I would be grateful if you could use the words `school,' `educational establishment,' or any other keywords you think would locate crimes within the vicinity of schools.

Please list the weapons seized - including improvised weapons.

I would like this information broken down in calendar years for 2014, 2015 and 2016.

This information is not recorded in an easily retrievable format. To locate, retrieve and extract the requested information requires a manual search of all records held in order to identify any records in relation to your request. Nottinghamshire Police currently have over 2 million exhibits as a Force, relating to a wide range of incidents. This population includes all types and sizes of exhibit and, dependent upon what is meant by the term weapon, we would need to extract the number of items from that overall population of exhibits which met that definition. We would then need to identify from the items which met the defined definition of "weapon", which were actually used as a weapon (e.g. a screwdriver could have been found at the scene of a burglary or used as an offensive weapon.) In order to find out the reason for the exhibit being recovered/seized and the location from which it was recovered we would have to research other databases to ascertain this information and in many cases actually refer the incident details back to the Officer in the Case for each individual incident to glean this information. This would be an immense exercise and would also involve abstracting frontline officers from other duties in order to respond to the email requests and research for the cases concerned. The work necessary to identify the number of illegal weapons that have been seized from local schools in each of the past five years would certainly exceed 18 working hours.

This letter constitutes a refusal notice under Section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 with Section 12(1) of the act being applied

12. – (1) Section 1(1) does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit.

Should you wish for the Force to continue with your request, a more accurate figure will be provided within a fee's notice. The cost will need to be paid by you, prior to any further investigation. Please advise if you wish to proceed.

Alternatively you are invited to refine your request to bring it within the cost threshold – however due to the large numbers I am unable to suggest a refinement that would bring the request within the cost threshold.

[In accordance with the Act, once one part of the request is excess cost the whole request exceeds the cost threshold. However, in the spirit of the Act, in relation to the part of your request referring to crimes regarding weapons in schools please see below.](#)

**Number of Offences of Possession of a Weapon in Schools
for the last 3 years**

Weapon	2014	2015	2016
BB Gun	0	1	1
Bladed Article	0	1	0
Cap Gun	0	0	1

Craft Knife	0	2	0
Hammer	0	0	1
Knife	3	4	10
Knuckle Duster	1	0	0
Lock Knife	0	1	0
Metal Blades	0	1	0
Multi Tool	0	1	2
Sharp Object	0	1	0
Stanley Knife	0	1	2
Throwing Star	0	0	1
Drill	0	0	1
Grand Total	4	13	19

* Data provided consists of Home Office Offence Group 'Possession of Weapons'

** Data provided consists of where the Location equals 'Education' and the Location Sub-Type equals 'School'

Please Note:- This data has been extracted from a live crime system and may be subject to change
Source:- Performance & Insight 23/01/2016

Please Note: Police forces in the United Kingdom are routinely required to provide crime statistics to government bodies and the recording criteria is set nationally. However, the systems used for recording these figures are not generic, nor are the procedures used locally in capturing the crime data. **It should be noted that for these reasons, this force's response to your questions should not be used for comparison purposes with any other response you may receive.**

Complaints Rights

Your attention is drawn to the enclosed review procedure, which details your right of complaint.

Copyright

Nottinghamshire Police in complying with their statutory duty under Sections 1 and 11 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) to release the enclosed information will not breach the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. However, the rights of the copyright owner of the enclosed information will continue to be protected by law. Applications for the copyright owner's written permission to reproduce any part of the attached information should be addressed to the Force Solicitor, Nottinghamshire Police, Force Headquarters, Sherwood Lodge, Arnold, Nottinghamshire, NG5 8PP.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in Nottinghamshire Police.

Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter, please write or contact the Freedom of Information Officer on telephone number 0115

9672507 or e-mail freedomofinformation@Nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk
quoting the above reference number.

Yours sincerely

Disclosure Officer

Are you dissatisfied with your response?

Nottinghamshire Police has a duty to implement a complaints process in relation to Freedom of Information Act requests. If you are not content with our response, you may appeal, this process is known as an 'Internal Review'

Internal reviews are intended to be a fair and impartial means of reviewing the original request process.

You can appeal about your request if you:-

- Disagree with the Forces interpretation of your request;
- Believe the Force hold more information than has been disclosed to you;
- Disagree with the application of exemptions;

How do I appeal?

All appeals should be made in writing and sent to:-

Information Management
Nottinghamshire Police
Force Headquarters
Sherwood Lodge
Arnold
Notts
NG5 8PP

or alternatively freedomofinformation@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk

To deal with your appeal as quickly as possible please provide the unique identification number provided with your response and the reasons for your appeal.

Once we have received your request for appeal, your FOI response will be reviewed in full to identify any problems in the disclosure.

The review will be undertaken by someone different from, and preferably senior to, the original decision maker and this should be completed within 20 working days from receipt, in exceptional circumstances it may be extended by a further 20 working days.

What if I'm still not satisfied?

You can appeal to the Information Commissioner. You can contact the Information Commissioner Office at the following:-

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113 (local rate) or 01625 545 745 (national rate)

E-mail: casework@ico.org.uk