



**BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE**

Our Ref: 2009/00781

25 November 2009

Dear Member of the Public,

**REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT Reference No F-2009-00781**

I write in connection with your request for information received on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2009. I note you seek access to the following information:

1. *How many children under the age of 16 have been found in possession of a gun (including air rifles/pistols) in:*

- a) 2009 (latest figures)
- b) 2008
- c) 2007
- d) 2006

*i) For each year, could you please split the figure into the number of boys found in possession of a gun, and the number of girls found in possession of a gun.*

*ii) For each year, could you please give the age, sex (boy/girl), location and any details of youngest child found in possession of a gun.*

*iii) For each year could you give the total amount of people of all ages found in possession of a gun*

2. *How many children under the age of 16 have been found in possession of a knife or a bladed weapon in:*

- a) 2009 (latest figures)
- b) 2008
- c) 2007
- d) 2006

*i) For each year, could you please split the figure into the number of boys found in possession of a knife or a bladed weapon, and the number of girls found in possession of a knife or a bladed weapon.*

*ii) For each year, could you please give the age, sex (boy/girl), location and any details of the youngest child found in possession of a knife or a bladed weapon.*

*iii) For each year could you give the total amount of people of all ages found in possession of a knife or a bladed weapon*

3. *How many children under the age of 16 have been found in possession of class A drugs in:*

- a) 2009 (latest figures)
- b) 2008
- c) 2007
- d) 2006

*i) For each year, could you please split the figure into the number of boys found in possession of class A drugs, and the number of girls found in possession of class A drugs.*

*ii) For each year, could you please give the age, sex (boy/girl), location and any details of the youngest child found in possession of class A drugs.*

iii) For each year could you give the total amount of people of all ages found in possession of class A drugs

4. How many children under the age of 16 have been found in possession of alcohol in:

- a) 2009 (latest figures)
- b) 2008
- c) 2007
- d) 2006

i) For each year, could you please split the figure into the number of boys found in possession of alcohol, and the number of girls found in possession of alcohol.

ii) For each year, could you please give the age, sex (boy/girl), location and any details of the youngest child found in possession of alcohol.

I am required by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (The Act) to handle all requests in a manner that is blind to the identity of the requestor. Any information released in response to a request is regarded as being published, and **therefore in the public domain without caveat.**

In response to your questions, I have today decided to release the information requested in full as I can see no harm to any individual, the community, the police service or other bodies. After considering whether releasing this information will affect the good order and functioning of community, government or other public service affairs, I believe it is in the public's interest the information be released. The information lies within the arena of public safety and may provide common benefit to members of the community. Releasing this information will not identify any individual or compromise any court case, law enforcement or investigation.

With reference to your recent enquiry and in response to your questions I can confirm the following:

**Questions 1 to 3** – Please refer to the attached document ([Annex A](#)) which contains a full detailed breakdown of the crime data you requested:

File attached: [Annex A 2009-00781.pdf](#)

**Question 4** – Unfortunately, we could not extract any form of accurate information on '**possession of alcohol**' offences. This was due to the fact that this type of offence would normally be dealt with, in many cases, by the police officers involved simply moving the offenders on with a verbal reprimand. In these cases there would have been no formal processing of any paperwork taken place from which we could now recover the data.

Therefore, I have determined that the information to which you seek access is not held in an accurate and recoverable format by Bedfordshire Police.

The only similar offences we could find where for example selling alcohol to minors and / or purchasing alcohol for minors.