



Information Rights  
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20th August 2019

Our Ref: FOI2019/04578

**REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2019/04578**

I write in connection with your request for information received on 16th July. I note you seek access to the following information:

1. **How many dangerous/ illicit weapons has your force confiscated from schools in each of the past five calendar years: 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014?**
2. **These figures should be broken down by type of weapon and the school from which they were confiscated: e.g. 20 bladed weapons were confiscated from X school in 2018 (include school address).**

**CLARIFICATION REQUEST - Bedfordshire Police does not have a category for recording dangerous or illicit weapons therefore every weapon would need to be specified in full and then a free text search of every record would have to be conducted. As we hold thousands of records for every year to manually read through each individual record would exceed the 18 hour time limit and make the request 'over cost'. Please can I ask you to refine your request?**

**CLARIFICATION REPLY - Apologies for the late reply**

**Please instead could you change the request to the following:**

- **The number of offences involving possession of a weapon on school property**
- **The number of weapons confiscated as a result of these offences if available**
- **Please can you also link each offence to the school where it took place if possible**
- **Please can you provide this data for the years specified in the original request if available?**

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.

**RESPONSE -** Following enquiries conducted by Bedfordshire Police and their crime recording systems within the Force please see our response on the table below: -

Bedfordshire Police made a significant investment in a new ICT system, Athena, in May 2018, when fully implemented, will help keep Bedfordshire safe, bring more offenders to justice and improve outcomes for victims. Updating our ICT was absolutely necessary to ensure Bedfordshire Police remains as effective and efficient as possible. The public should be reassured crime continues to be reported and investigated as normal but whilst colleagues become more comfortable and familiar with how Athena works Bedfordshire Police has some concerns around data quality for which reason some of the data provided concerning events recorded after 23 May 2018, may include some inaccuracies. We apologise for the situation and are working to resolve it as soon as possible.

Possession of Weapons Location Type - School / College Between: 1.1.2014 - 30.6.2019						
Crime Type / Location Name	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Grand Total

<b>10A - Possession Of Firearms With Intent</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>
1			1			1
2		1				1
4					1	1
3					1	1
<b>10B - Possession Of Firearms Offences</b>			<b>1</b>			<b>1</b>
5			1			1
<b>10C - Possession Of Other Weapons</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12</b>
6					1	1
7		1				1
8				3		3
9		1				1
10				1		1
11	1					1
12				2		2
13		1				1
<b>10D - Possession Of Article With Blade Or Point</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>44</b>
14		1				1
15		2				2
16		3				3
17			1			1
18			1			1
19		2				2
20			1	1	1	3
21			2			2
22		1				1
23				1		1
24			1			1
25		1				1
26		2				2
27				1		1
28				1		1
29	1					1
30			1			1
31	1			1		2
32			1			1
33					1	1
34				1	1	2
35					2	2
36			1	1		2
37				1		1
38				1		1
39				1		1
40			1	1		2

41		1			1	2
42		1				1
43					1	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>60</b>

Bedfordshire Police do not have weapons confiscated data.

The numerical data presented in this response is an un-audited snapshot of un-published data sourced from "live" systems and is subject to the interpretation of the original request by the individual extracting the data.

Any further information held by Bedfordshire Police in relation to this request is exempt under the following exemptions:

**Section 40(2) Personal Information**

The section 40 exemption is a class based absolute exemption which means legislators have identified that there would be harm in disclosure and there is no need to evidence this or carry out a public interest test.

Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter please do not hesitate to contact me quoting the above reference number.

Yours sincerely

**Information Rights**

Bedfordshire Police provides you the right to request an independent review of this response under its review procedure. If you require such a review you must notify us within two months from the date of this letter. After lodging a complaint with Bedfordshire Police if you are still dissatisfied with the decision you may make an application to the Information Commissioner. For information on how to make a complaint please visit their website at <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/> or contact them on 0303 123 1113.