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Information Rights  
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15th January 2019

Our Ref: FOI2018/07074

Dear Requestor

**REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2018/07074**

I write in connection with your request for information received on 7th December. I note you seek access to the following information:

**Under the FOI act, could I please request the following information for the past five academic years (Sep 1 – August 31 in 2013/14, 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18)**

- **The number of times your police force was called to a school or other educational institution because of a report relating to a knife, blade or other weapon**
- **The name of the educational institution and the date you were called**
- **Details of the incident that prompted the call (including the weapon type) and the police action required**
- **The result of the visit (i.e. no further action, criminal charge)**
- **The number of knives picked up/confiscated from schools in each year**

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.

Following enquiries within the Force please see our response below.

**Response** – Bedfordshire Police can only provide data relating to recorded cries not call-outs. We do not record centrally confiscated knives therefore we have provided the data collated on the attached document.

**Attachment** – Annex A FOI2018 07074

**Please note** - Bedfordshire Police made a significant investment in a new ICT system, Athena, in May of this year which, 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, may include some inaccuracies. We apologise for the situation and are working to resolve it as soon as possible.

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.

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

Yours sincerely

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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.