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13th May 2019

Our Ref: FOI2019/02557

Dear Requestor

**REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2019/02557**

I write in connection with your request for information received on 15th April. I note you seek access to the following information:

**\*\*\*KNIFE ARCHES\*\*\***

**1) How many knife arch operations were conducted by your police force...**

- a)...from 1st January 2019 - 1st April 2019?
- b)...in 2018?
- c)...in 2017?
- d)...in 2016?
- e)...in 2015?

**2) How many people were arrested as a result of knife arch operations by your force...**

- a)...from 1st January 2019 - 1st April 2019?
- b)...in 2018?
- c)...in 2017?
- d)...in 2016?
- e)...in 2015?

**3) How many people were stopped and searched as a part of knife arch operations by your force...**

- a)...from 1st January 2019 - 1st April 2019?
- b)...in 2018?
- c)...in 2017?
- d)...in 2016?
- e)...in 2015?

**4) How many knives/bladed articles were seized as a result of knife arch operations by your force...**

- a)...from 1st January 2019 - 1st April 2019?
- b)...in 2018?
- c)...in 2017?
- d)...in 2016?
- e)...in 2015?

**5) How many knife arches does your police force own...**

- a)...at present?
- b)...in 2018?
- c)...in 2017?
- d)...in 2016?
- e)...in 2015?

**Notes:**

**A. All the below questions relate to knife arches, also known to as screening arches. Handheld detectors, or wands, should not be included in any figures. You may find the Metropolitan Police's screening arch policy**

useful: <https://www.met.police.uk/SysSiteAssets/foi-media/metropolitan-police/policies/search--search-principles>

**B. The definition of a knife arch operation may differ from force to force. But one (1) operation should not exceed one (1) day. So if a knife arch was placed in a location for several days, each day should be counted as a separate operation. If your force's data is not held in this way, please provide an explanation / definition.**

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 please see our response below: -

1a) 1  
b) 2  
c) 0  
d) 0  
e) 0

2a) 0  
b) 0  
c) 0  
d) 0  
e) 0

3a) 0  
b) 0  
c) 0  
d) 0  
e) 0

4a) 0  
b) 0  
c) 0  
d) 0  
e) 0

5a) 2  
b) 2  
c) 0  
d) 0  
e) 0

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

Gary Maxey  
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.