

9<sup>th</sup> March 2018

## **Knife Crime**

### **Freedom of Information Request – Reference No:20180414**

#### **REQUEST**

***How many offences involving a knife or bladed weapon were recorded by your force in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017?***

***Of those offences, how many involved under 18s in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017?***

***What was the youngest age of a person arrested for an offence involving a knife or bladed weapon in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017?***

***How many charges were brought for offences involving a knife or bladed weapon in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017?***

***Looking at the responses from the other police forces, they have given me a count of knife crime offences, as defined by the Home Office. Therefore please can you provide me with a knife crime offence count, as defined by the Home Office?***

#### **RESPONSE**

I approached our Crime Management Data Returns Administrator for assistance with your request. The CMS system and Connect System is used to record complaints or allegations of those matters, which the Home Office specify should be recorded as 'crimes'.

She conducted a search of the two crime management systems. (CMS - our legacy system which provides data up to 4th December 2017 and our new CONNECT system which records crimes from that date onwards)

She provided me with the enclosed spreadsheet and the following explanation of her search criteria:

***How many offences involving a knife or bladed weapon were recorded by your force in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017? – refer to sheet titled OFFENCE COUNT***

#### **CMS Data**

*I have searched CMS for offences recorded on the Crime Register between 01-Jan-2012 and 04-Dec-2017 and have provided a count of the below Home Office offence classes, which are included within the Home Office data return for Knife crime, however in addition to these offences I have also included the Home Office Class Murder, which is not included in the Knife Crime return. I am not sure if other Forces have taken the same approach. If you would prefer this not to be included then please advise and I will revise the data.*

*I have based the conditions of the query on the following –*

*Where the Home Office Class is –*

HOME OFFICE OFFENCE CLASS
ASSAULT WITH INJURY
ASSAULT WITH INJURY ON A CONSTABLE
ASSAULT WITH INTENT TO CAUSE SERIOUS HARM
ATTEMPT MURDER
ENDANGERING LIFE
MURDER
RACIALLY OR RELIGIOUSLY AGGRAVATED ASSAULT WITH INJURY
RAPE
ROBBERY
SEXUAL ASSAULT
THREATS TO KILL

And the weapon type is either of the following -

Weapon Type
AXE
BASEBALL BAT ADAPTED - BLADE INSERTED
BROKEN BOTTLE
BROKEN GLASS OBJECT
CROSSBOW / BOW AND ARROW
CUTLERY - FORK
DART
FLICK / LOCK KNIFE
FLICK KNIFE
HATCHET
HYPODERMIC NEEDLE / SYRINGE
KITCHEN KNIFE
KNIFE / DAGGER
LOCK KNIFE
MACHETE
MEAT CLEAVER
NEEDLE,PIN(NOT HYPODERMIC NEEDLE)
OTHER SHARP / POINTED INSTRUMENT
PEN KNIFE
RAZOR / RAZORBLADE
SAW
SCALPEL
SCISSORS
STANLEY KNIFE / BLADE
SWORD/BAYONET

And the Weapon Usage is – (previously based on the flag USED = Y OR POSSESSED =Y)

<i>Weapon Usage</i>
<i>CONCEALED BUT VICTIM THREATENED</i>
<i>CUTTING</i>
<i>GLASSING</i>
<i>IMPLEMENT USED AS A PHYSICAL THREAT</i>
<i>STABBING/SLASHING/PUNCTURE/PIERCE</i>

*Please note – more than one weapon type may be recorded on some offences type, therefore we would expect a count of weapons to exceed a count of offences. For the purpose of this request, I have searched for offences where a 'KNIFE' has been recorded as above, however other weapon types may be recorded on the crime report.*

***How many charges were brought for offences involving a knife or bladed weapon in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017? Refer to sheet titled OFFENCE OUTCOME***

*Of the count of offences, I have provided a count of the offence outcome. I have provided all offence outcomes and not just where charged, please discount these if necessary. Please note – this is a count of offence outcomes and not offenders.*

*The Home Office changed the approach to reviewing outcomes of crimes implemented in South Yorkshire in July 2014, and now a broader framework is now in place. A crime which would have previously been closed as 'undetected' is now given a specific outcome based on the specific circumstances of that crime.*

*In addition, the outcomes CHARGED, SUMMONS and CAUTIONS changed in 2017 and we now specifically record for what offence, the offender was charged i.e. CHARGED is now recorded as either CHARGED WITH OFFENCE RECORDED Or CHARGED WITH AN ALTERNATIVE OFFENCE, therefore the outcomes are applicable depending on the year recorded the offence was recorded.*

***Of those offences, how many involved under 18s in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017? Refer to sheet titled OFFENDER UNDER 18***

*Offender under 18 –*

*Of the offence count, I have provided a count offenders that were aged under 18 at the time the offence was committed.*

***What was the youngest age of a person arrested for an offence involving a knife or bladed weapon in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017? CHS have provided this previously on 20180064.***

## **CONNECT DATA -**

*I have provided a count of the specified offences as above, recorded on the CONNECT system between 05-Dec-2017 – 31-Dec-2017 where an offence was recorded with the MO DESC1 'Instrument used' or\and 'MO DESC3 'Knife'. Of these offences. I have provided a count of offence outcomes if currently recorded and of those, the number recorded where an offender was aged under 18 at the time the offence was committed. I have had to take a slightly different approach to extracting the data from CONNECT as the data is not recorded in the same format as the legacy system CMS.*

*By "KNIFE" I mean what is recorded as a sharp instrument in accordance with the Home Office Definition of knife.*

*SYP have changed their central crime management system in December 2017. Therefore data from the new system cannot be used as a direct comparison due to the different ways in which crimes are recorded. However, the data has been given to comply with original request and displayed here to show an outline trend.*

## SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE

COUNT OF THE SPECIFIED HOME OFFICE OFFENCE SUB CLASS OFFENCES WHERE THE BELOW CONDITIONS HAVE BEEN APPLIED

WHERE THE OFFENCE WAS RECORDED ON THE CMS CRIME REGISTER BETWEEN 01-JAN-2012 AND 04-DEC-2017

HOME OFFICE OFFENCE CLASS	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
ASSAULT WITH INJURY	94	110	121	130	189	169
ASSAULT WITH INJURY ON A CONSTABLE	0	0	0	0	0	2
ASSAULT WITH INTENT TO CAUSE SERIOUS HARM	130	127	159	182	260	282
ATTEMPT MURDER	2	4	3	4	17	11
ENDANGERING LIFE	0	0	0	0	0	1
MURDER	6	10	4	3	5	4
RACIALLY OR RELIGIOUSLY AGGRAVATED ASSAULT WITH INJURY	2	0	1	0	0	3
RAPE OF A FEMALE AGED 16 AND OVER	2	2	10	7	6	3
RAPE OF A FEMALE CHILD UNDER 13	1	0	0	0	1	1
RAPE OF A FEMALE CHILD UNDER 16	0	0	0	0	1	2
RAPE OF A MALE AGED 16 AND OVER	0	0	0	1	3	3
RAPE OF A MALE CHILD UNDER 13	0	0	0	0	0	1
ROBBERY OF BUSINESS PROPERTY	40	43	47	53	63	70
ROBBERY OF PERSONAL PROPERTY	201	217	200	171	247	325
SEXUAL ASSAULT ON A FEMALE AGED 13 OR OVER	1	2	4	2	6	3
SEXUAL ASSAULT ON A FEMALE CHILD UNDER 13	0	0	0	1	0	0
SEXUAL ASSAULT ON A MALE AGED 13 AND OVER	0	0	0	1	1	0
THREATS TO KILL	10	18	19	23	43	89

CONDITIONS APPLIED -

WHERE THE WEAPON TYPE IS ONE OF THE FOLLOWING -

Weapon Type
AXE
BASEBALL BAT ADAPTED - BLADE INSERTED
BROKEN BOTTLE
BROKEN GLASS OBJECT
CROSSBOW / BOW AND ARROW
CUTLERY - FORK
DART
FLICK / LOCK KNIFE
FLICK KNIFE
HATCHET
HYPODERMIC NEEDLE / SYRINGE
KITCHEN KNIFE
KNIFE / DAGGER
LOCK KNIFE
MACHETE
MEAT CLEAVER
NEEDLE,PIN(NOT HYPODERMIC NEEDLE)
OTHER SHARP / POINTED INSTRUMENT
PEN KNIFE
RAZOR / RAZORBLADE
SAW
SCALPEL
SCISSORS
STANLEY KNIFE / BLADE
SWORD/BAYONET

AND WHERE THE WEAPON USAGE IS -

Weapon Usage
CONCEALED BUT VICTIM THREATENED
CUTTING
GLASSING
IMPLEMENT USED AS A PHYSICAL THREAT
STABBING/SLASHING/PUNCTURE/PIERCE

## SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE

OF THE OFFENCE COUNT, BELOW IS A BREAKDOWN OF THE OFFENCE OUTCOME

OFFENCE OUTCOME	YEAR OFFENCE RECORDED					
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
A - CHARGED	176	199	205	155	27	0
A - SUMMONS	5	7	8	2	2	0
B - REPRIMAND (S65 (2) CRIME & DISORDER ACT 1998)	1	0	0	0	0	0
B - SIMPLE CAUTION	3	4	2	0	1	0
B - WARNING (S65 (3) (A) CRIME & DISORDER ACT 1998)	0	1	0	0	0	0
B - WARNING 1ST OFFENCE (S65 (4) CRIME & DISORDER ACT 1998)	1	0	0	0	0	0
B - YOUTH CAUTION	0	1	0	0	0	0
C - TIC - PREVIOUSLY REPORTED BY COMPLAINANT	10	1	4	1	0	0
CHARGED WITH AN ALTERNATIVE OFFENCE	0	0	0	3	30	31
CHARGED WITH OFFENCE RECORDED	0	0	3	5	172	145
FURTHER ACTION WILL BE UNDERTAKEN BY ANOTHER BODY / AGENCY	0	0	0	1	5	13
INVESTIGATION TO PROVIDE EVIDENCE NOT IN PUBLIC INTEREST	0	1	0	0	2	0
NAMED SUSP - VICTIM/WITNESS DEAD/TOO ILL TO GIVE EVIDENCE	0	0	0	0	1	0
NAMED SUSPECT - BELOW THE AGE OF CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY	0	0	0	1	1	1
NAMED SUSPECT - SUSPECT TOO ILL TO PROSECUTE	0	0	3	0	0	3
NAMED SUSPECT EVID - VICTIM DOES NOT SUPPORT POLICE ACTION	0	0	39	42	60	117
NAMED SUSPECT EVIDENTIAL DIFFICULTIES - (CPS DECISION)	1	1	27	41	54	67
NAMED SUSPECT EVIDENTIAL DIFFICULTIES - (POLICE DECISION)	0	6	58	77	134	99
NO SUSPECT IDENTIFIED - INVESTIGATION COMPLETE	1	5	115	238	259	276
RESTORATIVE DISPOSAL YOUTH (10 TO 17 YRS)	4	0	0	0	0	0
RESTORATIVE DISPOSAL/COMMUNITY RESOLUTION ADULT (18 & OVER)	0	0	1	1	1	1
RESTORATIVE DISPOSAL/COMMUNITY RESOLUTION YOUTH (10 TO 17)	0	0	1	3	9	6
SIMPLE CAUTION FOR AN ALTERNATIVE OFFENCE	0	0	0	0	1	0
SIMPLE CAUTION FOR OFFENCE RECORDED	0	0	0	0	2	1
SUMMONS FOR AN ALTERNATIVE OFFENCE	0	0	0	0	8	5
SUMMONS FOR OFFENCE RECORDED	0	0	0	5	32	12
SUSP NOT IDENTIFIED - VICTIM DECLINE/UNABLE TO SUPPORT	0	0	0	2	21	83
SUSPECT IDENTIFIED - PROSECUTION TIME LIMIT EXPIRED	0	0	1	0	1	0
THE OFFENDER HAS DIED	0	0	0	1	0	0
YOUTH CAUTION FOR AN ALTERNATIVE OFFENCE	0	0	0	0	1	0
YOUTH CAUTION FOR OFFENCE RECORDED	0	0	0	0	3	2
YOUTH CONDITIONAL CAUTION FOR OFFENCE RECORDED	0	0	0	0	4	1
NO OUTCOME CURRENTLY RECORDED	287	307	101	0	11	106

PLEASE NOTE - THIS IS A COUNT OF THE OFFENCE OUTCOME AND NOT A COUNT OF OFFENDERS BY OUTCOME



SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE

OF THE OFFENCE COUNT, THE BELOW IS A COUNT OF OFFENDERS BROKEN DOWN BY OFFENDER STATUS AND OUTCOME

WHERE THE OFFENCE WAS RECORDED BETWEEN 01-JAN-2012 AND 04-DEC-2017

		YEAR OFFENCE RECORDED					
OFFENDER STATUS	OFFENDER DISPOSAL	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
ACCUSED	A - CHARGED	27	57	37	16	2	0
	A - SUMMONS	1	2	1	0	0	0
	B - REPRIMAND (S65 (2) CRIME & DISORDER ACT 1998)	1	0	0	0	0	0
	B - WARNING (S65 (3) (A) CRIME & DISORDER ACT 1998)	0	1	0	0	0	0
	B - WARNING 1ST OFFENCE (S65 (4) CRIME & DISORDER ACT 1998)	1	0	0	0	0	0
	B - WARNING 2ND (S65 (3) (B) CRIME & DISORDER ACT 1998)	1	0	0	0	0	0
	B - YOUTH CAUTION	0	1	0	0	0	0
	C - TIC - PREVIOUSLY REPORTED BY COMPLAINANT	3	0	0	0	0	0
	CHARGED WITH AN ALTERNATIVE OFFENCE	0	0	0	0	1	3
	CHARGED WITH OFFENCE RECORDED	0	0	0	1	22	14
	RESTORATIVE DISPOSAL YOUTH (10 TO 17 YRS)	4	0	0	0	0	0
	RESTORATIVE DISPOSAL/COMMUNITY RESOLUTION YOUTH (10 TO 17)	0	0	1	4	9	6
	SUMMONS FOR AN ALTERNATIVE OFFENCE	0	0	0	0	3	1
	SUMMONS FOR OFFENCE RECORDED	0	0	0	3	20	6
	YOUTH CAUTION FOR AN ALTERNATIVE OFFENCE	0	0	0	0	1	0
	YOUTH CAUTION FOR OFFENCE RECORDED	0	0	0	0	5	2
YOUTH CONDITIONAL CAUTION FOR OFFENCE RECORDED	0	0	0	0	6	1	
SUSPECT	FURTHER ACTION WILL BE UNDERTAKEN BY ANOTHER BODY / AGENCY	0	0	0	0	1	2
	INVESTIGATION TO PROVIDE EVIDENCE NOT IN PUBLIC INTEREST	0	0	0	0	1	0
	NAMED SUSPECT - BELOW THE AGE OF CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY	0	0	0	1	1	1
	NAMED SUSPECT - SUSPECT TOO ILL TO PROSECUTE	0	0	0	0	0	1
	NAMED SUSPECT EVID - VICTIM DOES NOT SUPPORT POLICE ACTION	0	0	11	8	8	28
	NAMED SUSPECT EVIDENTIAL DIFFICULTIES - (CPS DECISION)	0	0	7	3	15	7
	NAMED SUSPECT EVIDENTIAL DIFFICULTIES - (POLICE DECISION)	0	0	16	18	24	13
	NO SUSPECT IDENTIFIED - INVESTIGATION COMPLETE	0	0	14	19	22	24
	SUSP NOT IDENTIFIED - VICTIM DECLINE/UNABLE TO SUPPORT	0	0	1	0	1	5
	SUSPECT IDENTIFIED - PROSECUTION TIME LIMIT EXPIRED	0	0	0	2	1	0

PLEASE NOTE - THIS IS A COUNT OF OFFENDERS AND NOT OFFENCE OUTCOMES. MORE THAN ONE OFFENDER MAY BE RECORDED ON SOME OFFENCES

SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE  
COUNT OF OFFENCES RECORDED ON CONNECT WHERE A 'KNIFE' WAS RECORDED AS INSTRUMENT USED OR  
KNIFE WAS RECORDED ON THE OFFENCE  
WHERE THE OFFENCE WAS RECORDED BETWEEN 05-DEC-2017 AND 31-DEC-2017

HOME OFFENCE CLASS	Count
ASSAULT WITH INJURY	18
ASSAULT WITH INTENT TO CAUSE S HARM	20
ATTEMPTED MURDER	1
RACE OR RELIGIOUSLY AGG ASSAULT WITH INJ	1
ROBBERY OF BUSINESS PROPERTY	6
ROBBERY OF PERSONAL PROPERTY	24
THREATS TO KILL	2

OF THE ABOVE COUNT, THE FOLLOWING IS A BREAKDOWN OF OUTCOME(IF CURRENTLY RECORDED)

OUTCOME	Count
01 - Charged/Summonsed	10
01A - Charge/Summons- Alternative Offence	1
14 - Evidential Difficulties Victim Based- Suspect Not Identified: Crime Confirmed But The Victim Either Declines Or Unable To Support Further Police Investigation To Identify The Offender	1
16 - Named Suspect Identified: Evidential Difficulties Prevent Further Action: Victim Does Not Support (Or Has Withdrawn Support From) Police Action	12
17 - Prosecution Time Limit Expired: Suspect Identified But Prosecution Time Limit Has Expired	1
20 - Dealt with by Partner Agency	2

OF THE OUTCOME COUNT, THE FOLLOWING OFFENCES WERE RECORDED WITH AN OFFENDER THAT WAS AGED UNDER 18 AT THE TIME OF OFFENCE

Count of Age At Incident

OUTCOME	AGE AT INCIDENT					
	10	13	14	15	16	17
01 - Charged/Summonsed	0	0	0	0	3	0
16 - Named Suspect Identified: Evidential Difficulties Prevent Further Action: Victim Does Not Support (Or Has Withdrawn Support From) Police Action	0	0	0	0	1	1
Not Recorded	1	1	1	1	0	1