

16 February 2017

**Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20170101**

**REQUEST**

**1 KNIVES/GUNS**

**Please detail the number of times knives (please include all types of known knives or descriptions for knives e.g. machetes and blades) or guns have been**

**a) seized on school premises for each month of the past five years including 2016**

**b) used in an knife crime or gun crime incident (e.g. stabbing or shooting) on school premises for each month of the past five years including 2016**

**(c) Please also provide the age of the youngest child found to be in possession of a knife or gun**

**2. DRUGS**

**Please detail the number of times illegal drugs and illegal highs (e.g. knives, guns, machetes) [SIC] have been seized on school premises for each month of the past five years including 2016.**

**For each incident please give the month and year, a description of the drug or legal high (e.g. heroin or 'spice') and the age of child thought to be in possession.**

**RESPONSE**

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires South Yorkshire Police, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt), to provide you the applicant with a notice which:

- a. states that fact,
- b. specifies the exemption in question and
- c. states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies.

The following exemption applies to the disclosure of the information:

**Section 12(2) – Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit**

1 a) 'Property Seized' is not a field recorded on our Crime Management System. As such, it is not possible to search crimes where the location is recorded as 'school' and extract any relevant data from this system without having to review each recorded offence in school and manually review each record to ascertain whether any weapons were used and whether these were then seized. Searching all records in this manner would far exceed the 18 hour cost threshold.

The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 provide that the cost limit for non-central government public authorities is £450. This must be calculated at the rate of £25 per hour, providing an effective time limit of 18 hours. . If you feel your endeavours can be achieved within the appropriate limit by refining your request, South Yorkshire Police would be more than happy to consider any further request.

Guidance from the Information Commissioner to public authorities is that where one part of a request is reasonably estimated to exceed the appropriate limit then the authority is not obliged to consider or comply with the remainder of the request up to the point at which the appropriate limit has been reached. Please note point 30 of the below link:-

[https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1199/costs\\_of\\_compliance\\_exceeds\\_appropriate\\_limit.pdf](https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1199/costs_of_compliance_exceeds_appropriate_limit.pdf)

**Although excess cost removes the force's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, I have supplied information, relative to your request as a gesture of goodwill. I trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request neither does it bind South Yorkshire Police to any commitment that it will release information in such a manner in the future .**

#### Questions 1a

Attached is a spreadsheet providing relevant data extracted from our Crime Management System. Although seized weapons is not recorded, we do record whether the weapon was or was not used. One could perhaps surmise that if the weapon was not used, but the crime is recorded, that the weapon was in fact 'seized'. Please refer to table 'Weapon Offenders – All Usage' and filter on category 'Carried – Not Used'.

#### Question 1b

Please refer to tab 'Weapon Used Offences'

#### Question 1c

Aged 7

#### Question 2

Please refer to tab 'Drugs offenders'