



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2014-02238

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Weapons Seized from Children Aged 17 and Under

Request and Answer:

Question

Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request details of weapons seized from children aged 17 and under.

For each year from 2011 to 2014 so far (or for fewer years if necessary to bring this request within the time constraints of the FOI Act), and for each policing district, please disclose the following:

- The number times that weapons have been seized from children aged 17 and under.
- A list of the types of weapons seized, e.g. guns, knives, etc, and the quantities of each
- For each seizure, if possible please disclose the ages of the children involved; the types and quantities of weapons seized; and if possible the town/village/city where the seizure took place, identifying if it took place at a school

Clarification

I have made initial enquiries and it is hoped that we could provide figures for 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 to date. The figures would be derived from possession of offensive weapon offences recorded by the police where the location/address is a school, where the offence has been detected and where the age of the offender is 18 or under. From this offence we hope to be able to extract details re any weapons seized.

It should be noted that offences will not necessarily have been committed by a pupil and may have occurred outside school hours.

Could you please advise if you are content for us to proceed in this way and retrieve what is available from our systems?

Response

I'm happy for the FOI to proceed as you have outlined.

Answer

This is to inform you that the Police Service of Northern Ireland has now completed its search for the

information you requested. The decision has been taken to disclose the located information to you in full.

Please see tables attached at the end of this correspondence on pages 1 – 2, showing figures between 2011 and 2014 to date for possession of offensive weapon offences where the occurrence location is recorded as a school and the age of the offender is 18 or under.

It should be noted that offences will not necessarily have been committed by a pupil and may have occurred outside school hours.

If you have any queries regarding your request or the decision please do not hesitate to contact me on 028 9070 0164. When contacting the Freedom of Information Team, please quote the reference number listed at the beginning of this letter.

If you are dissatisfied in any way with the handling of your request, you have the right to request a review. You should do this as soon as possible, or in any case within two months of the date of issue of this letter. In the event that you require a review to be undertaken, you can do so by writing to the Head of Freedom of Information, PSNI Headquarters, 65 Knock Road, Belfast, BT5 6LE or by emailing foi@psni.pnn.police.uk.

If following an internal review, carried out by an independent decision maker, you were to remain dissatisfied in any way with the handling of the request you may make a complaint, under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to the Information Commissioner's Office and ask that they investigate whether the PSNI has complied with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act. You can write to the Information Commissioner at Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. In most circumstances the Information Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out, however the Commissioner has the option to investigate the matter at his discretion.

Please be advised that PSNI replies under Freedom of Information may be released into the public domain via our website @ www.psni.police.uk

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.

Weapons seized where the mo location is a school or college or the occurrence address is a school 2011 - 2014 (to date) and an offence has been detected.

The figures provided below are based on the number of offences recorded by the police between 2011 and 2014 (to date) that have since been detected by means of a Home Office detection method, and where at least one of the offenders was under the age of 19; where the mo location identified the location as a school or college or the occurrence address indicated it was a school and where the property seized was a weapon. [Home Office detection methods include charge/summons, cautions (adult and juvenile), discretionary disposals, penalty notices for disorder, offences taken into consideration and indictable only offences where no action was taken against the offender (died before proceedings or PPS did not prosecute).]

There were 9 offences recorded by the police between 2011 and 2014 (to date) which have since been detected, and where at least one of the offenders was under the age of 19 where a weapon has been seized at or within the vicinity of a school. There have been 9 offenders under the age of 19 detected in relation to these offences. As currently undetected offences may be detected in the future, the number of offenders remains subject to change.

Year	Remarks	Location	Location Subtype
2011	Knife from desk		
2011	black handled knife	Education	School
2011	3in blade knife	Education	School
2011	1 X shard of glass		
2012	1 x silver pen knife		
2013	1 x black handled kitchen knife with 3 1/4" blade	Education	School
2013	Flick knife	Education	School
2013	Black Swiss army knife	Education	School
2013	Double bladed knife	Education	School

Source: PSNI Statistics branch

Please note: This information is based on data extracted from a live crime recording system and may be subject to change. It is dependent on the information having been input into the system in such a way as to identify those records that are relevant.

**Age of offenders where a weapon has been seized in or
within the vicinity of a school**

Age of offender	Calendar Year				Total
	2011	2012	2013	2014 to date	
11	0	0	0	0	0
12	2	0	1	0	3
13	0	1	1	0	2
14	1	0	0	0	1
15	1	0	1	0	2
16	0	0	1	0	1
17	0	0	0	0	0
18	0	0	0	0	0
Total	4	1	4	0	9

Source: PSNI Statistics
Branch

Number of offenders based on the crime being detected and an offender detection report completed.

Analysis based on offenders under the age of 19 only.

Please note: This information is based on data extracted from a live crime recording system and may be subject to change. It is dependent on the information having been input into the system in such a way as to identify those records that are relevant.