



**NORFOLK**  
CONSTABULARY  
*Our Priority is You*

March 2017

**Freedom of Information Request Reference N<sup>o</sup>: FOI 002738/17**

I write in connection with your request for information received by the Norfolk Constabulary on the 6<sup>th</sup> February 2017 in which you sought access to the following information:

Could you please tell me how many times weapons have been seized or confiscated from school premises in your area in each of the following financial years:

- The 2016/17 year to date
- 2015/16
- 2012/13

In each case of seizure or confiscation, please could you give details, where possible, of -

- the type of weapon involved
- the type of school premises involved, for example primary or secondary school.
- details of who it was seized or confiscated from, for example their age, if they are a staff member or pupil
- the number of arrests made
- details of arrests made, for example their age, if they are a staff member or pupil
- the number of charges
- Details of any charges, for example the name of the charge, the age of the person charged.

I would also like to know, for each of the years listed above, the number of police officers based in schools.

Norfolk Constabulary holds information relevant to your request.

**Response to your Request**

When responding to a request for information under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, a public authority is not obliged to provide information if the authority estimates that the cost of the retrieval of the information requested would be in excess of £450 (equivalent to 18 hours work).

The costs criteria relates to a request in its entirety, which means that if we cannot retrieve *all* of the information requested within the costs limit, we are not obliged to retrieve *any* of the information requested.

The Norfolk Constabulary estimates that to retrieve all the information you have requested would exceed cost in excess of £450.

In order to establish what relevant information is held, we have contacted our Joint Performance and Analysis Department (JPAD). The term 'offensive weapon' is defined as: "any article made or adapted for use to causing injury to the person, or intended by the person having it with him for

such use". Therefore any number of objects can be classed as an offensive weapon if they are made or adapted for that purpose.

When a call is received by the Force Contact and Control Room, this will result in the creation of a Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) incident report. JPAD has advised that for the period requested, there are over 7,000 reports where the word 'school' appears in the location type. JPAD has therefore looked at recorded crimes of violence, where the company/premises name is 'school' or the MO location is 'education'. For the financial years requested, this returned 583 crimes.

It would be necessary to review each of these crimes to see if they hold information relevant to your request. Based on a minimum of just 3 minutes per crime, this would equate to over 29 hours. This would exceed the appropriate limit for dealing with a Freedom of Information request, in terms of cost, and therefore Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act applies.

Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act states that a public authority is not obliged to:

*"...comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of Complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit".*

The Freedom of Information (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004, defines the 'appropriate limit' for the Norfolk Constabulary as £450, and specifies that this sum equates to 18 hours work at a standard rate of £25 per hour.

In accordance with Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act (2000), this serves as a Refusal Notice for your request.

#### Advice & Assistance

Although excess cost removes the Constabulary's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill, I have supplied information, relevant to your request, which was retrieved or available in relation to a previous similar request. 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.

Please see below crimes relating to offences of possession of an offensive weapon where the location has been recorded as a school or academy.

**PLEASE NOTE** - The information includes crimes that have occurred either within or near to school/college grounds. Some crimes may not directly relate to students who attend the school/college, for example, non-students attending the school or who are within the premises outside of normal school hours.

#### Financial Year 2012/13

Crime Description	Type of Weapon Involved	Age of Offender	Outcome
Having An Article With A Blade Or Point On School Premises	1 x folding pen knife 1 x pen knife	16 or under	B3. Reprimand
Having An Article With A Blade Or Point In A Public Place	Lock knife and sheath knife	20	A1. Charge
Possession Of Offensive Weapon Without Lawful Authority/Reasonable Excuse	wooden baseball bat	24	B1. Caution
Having An Article With A Blade Or Point In A Public Place	Kitchen knife Stanley blades	40	A1. Charge
Possession Of Offensive Weapon Without Lawful Authority/Reasonable Excuse	Golf Club	16 or under	B3. Reprimand

Possession Of Other Offensive Weapon On School Premises	1 X Kitchen knife 1 x lock knife	16 or under	B3. Reprimand
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Financial Year 2015/16

Crime Description	Type of Weapon Involved	Age of Offender	Outcome
Having An Article With A Blade Or Point In A Public Place	Knife	16 or under	B2. Conditional Caution
Possession Of Other Offensive Weapon On School Premises	Multi-Tool	16 or under	No Further Action
Sec 4 POA Fear or Provocation of Violence	Pencil Ruler with craft blade	16 or under	Type 1 - Charged/ Summonsed/ Postal Requisition
Having An Article With A Blade Or Point On School Premises	Swiss Army Knife	16 or under	Type 20 - Further action resulting from the crime report will be undertaken by another body or agency subject to the victim (or person acting on their behalf) being made aware of the act to be taken
Possession of offensive weapon on school premises other than with a blade	Table Knife	16 or under	Type 10 - Formal Action Against Offender is not in the Public Interest (Police)
Having an article with a blade or point on school premises	Stanley Knife	16 or under	Type 2 - Caution Youth
Having an article with a blade or point on school premises	Bottle Opener	16 or under	Type 10 - Formal Action Against Offender is not in the Public Interest (Police)
Having an article with a blade or point on school premises	Kitchen Knife	16 or under	Type 1 - Charged/Summonsed/ Postal Requisition
Having an article with a blade or point on school premises	Craft Knife	16 or under	Type 2 - Caution Youth
Possession of offensive weapon without lawful authority or reasonable excuse	Pen Knife	16 or under	Type 2 - Caution Youth
Having an article with a blade or point in a public place	Kitchen Knife	16 or under	Type 1 - Charged/Summonsed/ Postal Requisition

Financial Year 2016/17 (to date)

Crime Description	Type of Weapon Involved	Age of Offender	Outcome
Possession of offensive weapon on school premises other than with a blade	Broom Handle	44	Type 1A - Charged/Summons - alternate offence. Offender has been charged under the alternate offence rule.
Threaten with a blade or sharply pointed article on school premises	Scissors	16 or under	Type 20 - Further action resulting from the crime report will be undertaken by another body or agency subject to the victim (or person acting on their behalf) being

			made aware of the act to be taken
Possession of offensive weapon without lawful authority or reasonable excuse	Flick penknife	16 or under	Type 2 - Caution Youth
Possession of offensive weapon without lawful authority or reasonable excuse	Craft blade	16 or under	Type 1A - Charged/Summons - alternate offence. Offender has been charged under the alternate offence rule.
Having an article with a blade or point in a public place	Knife	16 or under	Type 20 - Further action resulting from the crime report will be undertaken by another body or agency subject to the victim (or person acting on their behalf) being made aware of the act to be taken
Possession of offensive weapon without lawful authority or reasonable excuse	Kitchen knife	16 or under	Type 11 - Prosecution Prevented-Named Suspect Identified But Is Below The Age Of Criminal Responsibility
Having an article with a blade or point on school premises	Kitchen knife	16 or under	Type 8 - Community resolution (Crime)
Having an article with a blade or point on school premises	Lock knife	16 or under	Type 1 - Charged/Summoned/ Postal Requisition
Threaten with a blade or sharply pointed article in a public place	Kitchen knife	16 or under	Type 18 - Investigation Complete; No Suspect Identified. Crime Investigated As Far As Reasonably Possible-Case Closed Pending Further Investigative Opportunities Becoming Available
Having an article with a blade or point on school premises	Lock knife	16 or under	Type 11 - Prosecution Prevented-Named Suspect Identified But Is Below The Age Of Criminal Responsibility
Having an article with a blade or point on school premises	Knife	16 or under	Type 1 - Charged/Summoned/ Postal Requisition
Threaten with a blade or sharply pointed article on school premises	Craft knife	16 or under	Not recorded
Having an article with a blade or point on school premises	Kitchen knife	16 or under	Not recorded
Having an article with a blade or point on school premises	Knife	16 or under	Type 2 - Caution Youth
Threaten with a blade or sharply pointed article on school premises	Scissors	16 or under	Not recorded
Having an article with a blade or point on school premises	Kitchen knife	16 or under	Type 20 - Further action resulting from the crime report will be undertaken by another body or agency subject to the victim (or person acting

			on their behalf) being made aware of the act to be taken
Having an article with a blade or point on school premises	Pen knife	16 or under	Type 11 - Prosecution Prevented-Named Suspect Identified But Is Below The Age Of Criminal Responsibility
Having an article with a blade or point on school premises	Kitchen knife	16 or under	Not recorded
Possessing or distributing prohibited weapons designed for discharge of noxious substances etc	Cs/Pepper Spray	16 or under	Not recorded
Having an article with a blade or point on school premises	Pen knife	16 or under	Type 8 - Community resolution (Crime)
Having an article with a blade or point on school premises	Scalpel	16 or under	Not recorded
Having an article with a blade or point on school premises	Knife	16 or under	Not recorded

With regard to your final question please see below:-

### Overview

#### Secondary Schools

During 2010 Norfolk Constabulary undertook a strategic review of Safer Schools Partnerships (SSPs). This review allowed the Constabulary to identify its preferred SSP model which has now been implemented.

Norfolk has a tiered approach to its secondary school Safer Schools Partnerships. There are 51 state secondary schools in Norfolk and 9 were identified as 'Tier 1' schools which would benefit from full-time SSP status. These schools have a full-time Police Officer integrated into the school management team under a formal SSP protocol and information sharing agreement. These schools were identified by analysis of police, education and socio-economic data sets to produce a 'Secondary Schools Hierarchy'. This is essentially a vulnerable localities index for secondary schools.

The data sets used were:-

- All Crime
- Anti-social behaviour
- First-time offender rates
- Truancy
- Income deprivation
- Employment deprivation
- GCSE attainment
- Year 11 NEET levels

Based on this analysis, the Tier 1 schools were:-

- Ormiston Venture Academy, Gorleston
- Great Yarmouth High School
- City Academy Norwich
- Sewell Park Academy, Norwich
- The Hewett Academy, Norwich
- Open Academy, Norwich

- Thetford Academy (comprises 2 former Thetford high schools)
- Kings Lynn Academy
- King Edward Seventh Academy, Kings Lynn

In autumn 2010, recruitment to these Tier 1 SSP posts took place and Safer Schools Partnerships have now been established in all of these schools.

The strategic development of Tier 1 Safer Schools Partnerships was accompanied by a move to central line management of SSP staff, with more robust direction and control, backed up by a performance monitoring framework.

The remaining 42 secondary schools (Tier 2) were offered the opportunity to enter into part-time Safer Schools Partnerships. These are governed by the same formal protocol, information sharing agreement and objectives. However, because identified need is less in these schools, they are staffed by Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) who are committed to the SSP for 1 day each week.

The ethos of Safer Schools Partnerships is:-

- To provide a platform for the provision of early intervention, prevention and support for young people and their families
- To adopt a problem solving approach
- To add value to school policies and procedures.

In practice, the main focus for SSPs is in relation to attendance, behaviour and safeguarding. The aim is to bring about behaviour modification where required, support and empower students who are victims or otherwise vulnerable, and to inform and equip young people to manage risk and keep themselves safe.

Overall, there is a proactive problem solving focus which supports frontline service delivery against anti-social behaviour, crime and safeguarding.

#### SSP Staff working in secondary schools

The recruitment of secondary schools to the SSP model took place over a number of years. As a consequence the number of police staff working in secondary schools has changed over time:-

<u>YEAR</u>		
2010/11	7 PCs	8 PCSOs
2012/13	8 PCs	33 PCSOs
2014/15	8 PCs	44 PCSOs

From mid-2015, Norfolk Constabulary began migrating its SSP model to one whereby the 42 Tier 2 schools are grouped together in clusters (maximum of 4 schools in each). Rather than having each Tier 2 school staffed by a different Safer Neighbourhood Team PCSO, the new model seeks to employ 1 SSP dedicated PCSO for each cluster. The PCSO spends a minimum of 1 day per week in each school. This model recognises the school role as a specific full-time role. The resulting smaller cohort of staff required to deliver this model enables them to be more easily trained, trained to a higher level, and deliver a more consistent, high quality service.

The number of police staff working in secondary schools since this change commenced is as follows:-

<u>YEAR</u>		
2015/16	10 PCs	22 PCSOs
2016/17	10 PCs	21 PCSOs
<u>Primary Schools</u>		

In relation to engagement with Primary schools, each Primary school has an appointed single-point of contact (usually a PCSO attached to the local Safer Neighbourhood Team). The appointed staff engage with their schools to provide key messages, advice and guidance, and support as appropriate. There are 362 Primary schools in Norfolk.