

18 January 2019

Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 2019002

REQUEST

My request concerns the figures on number of recorded attacks against school staff in schools

- 1) Please could you provide figures on number of recorded attacks against school staff in schools in South Yorkshire in the last five years? (2018-2013). Please break this down by year and by town/city where the attack took place/age/gender of offender.
- 2) Please provide figures on the number of recorded knife attacks against school staff in South Yorkshire in the last five years (2018 – 2013). Please break this down by year and by town/city/where the attack took place/age/gender of offender.
- 3) For both of the above, please provide information on how many of those attacks were against teachers.

RESPONSE

I approached our Crime Management Data Returns Officer 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 in response and the following explanation regarding her search criteria:

CMS(ii) data – I have included a count of offences recorded under Violence with Injury or Violence without Injury, recorded with a victim where the Crime scene premises type is either SCHOOL / COLLEGE OR NURSERY SCHOOL / PRE-SCHOOL, where the offence was recorded on the CMS(ii) crime register between 01-Jan-2013 and 04-Dec-2017, broken down by the crime scene district. Of this count, I have provided a breakdown of the number of offences that were recorded with a knife.

Within the CMS(ii) occupation table, we cannot readily identify occupations under Education as we can in CONNECT therefore I have included a breakdown of all victims by occupation but without reviewing the circumstances of the offence, I cannot accurately state if the victims are 'school staff'.

I have also included a count of named offenders by offender status, age at the time of the offence and gender.

CONNECT data - I have included a count of offences recorded under Violence with Injury or Violence without Injury, recorded with a victim where the MO DESC is SCHOOL or NURSERY (no results for nursery), where the offence was recorded on CONNECT crime between 05-Dec-2017 and 30-NOV-2018, broken down by the BCU DESC. Please note – only one offence was recorded with the Keyword Use of Knife or other Sharp Instrument which is now used to identify offences recorded with a knife.

Of the offence count, I have included a breakdown of the victim's occupation where the Occupation Level 1 is Education broken down by level 2.

Please note -

- Some offences may be recorded with more than offender and some offences may be recorded without an offender, therefore we don't expect a count of offences, victims and offenders to be the same.*
- I have not been able to provide data regarding offenders in CONNECT due to the ongoing issues. As previously stated, PMU has taken the decision that we are unable to provide data regarding suspects i.e. outcomes, ages, gender etc. due to data quality and accuracy issues and because the query would be based on the offender's outcome in order to identify the relationship of the suspect to the victim, I cannot currently fulfil this request for CONNECT.*
- 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(ii).*
- By 'KNIFE' I mean what is recorded as a sharp instrument in accordance with the Home Office Definition of knife for the purpose of the Knife crime ADR.*
- 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.*