

27 April 2019

**Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20190804**

**REQUEST**

- 1. Please tell me how many children aged 16 and under were attacked or threatened with a knife in a) 2018 b) 2017 c) 2016 d) 2015 e) 2014 f) 2013**
- 2. For the figures for 2018, please tell me how many children were aged ten and under?**
- 3. Please tell me how many children aged 16 and under were caught with a knife in a) 2018 b) 2017 c) 2016 d) 2015 e) 2014 f) 2013**
- 4. For the figures for 2018, please tell me how many children were aged ten aged ten and under?**
- 5. Please tell me how many of the children aged 16 and under caught with a knife in 2018 were either using the knife as a threat or had already used it to harm?**

**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(i) Data

*Q1 - I have searched CMS(ii) for offences recorded in accordance with the Home Office Data Return 160 – Use of Knives and other sharp instruments, where the offence was recorded on the Crime Register between 01-Jan-2013 and 04-Dec-2017 where the victim is aged 16 or under at the time of the offence.*

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

*Where the Home Office Class is –*

|                           |
|---------------------------|
| HOME OFFICE OFFENCE CLASS |
|---------------------------|

|                     |
|---------------------|
| ASSAULT WITH INJURY |
|---------------------|

|   |
|---|
| <i>ASSAULT WITH INJURY ON A CONSTABLE</i>                     |
| <i>ASSAULT WITH INTENT TO CAUSE SERIOUS HARM</i>              |
| <i>ATTEMPT MURDER</i>   |
| <i>ENDANGERING LIFE</i>                                       |
| <i>MURDER</i>   |
| <i>RACIALLY OR RELIGIOUSLY AGGRAVATED ASSAULT WITH INJURY</i> |
| <i>RAPE</i>   |
| <i>ROBBERY</i>  |
| <i>SEXUAL ASSAULT</i>   |
| <i>THREATS TO KILL</i>  |

*And the weapon type is either of the following -*

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

*And the Weapon Usage is*

|  |
|--|
| <i>Weapon Usage</i>                    |
| <i>CONCEALED BUT VICTIM THREATENED</i> |

|                                     |
|-------------------------------------|
| CUTTING                             |
| GLASSING                            |
| IMPLEMENT USED AS A PHYSICAL THREAT |
| STABBING/SLASHING/PUNCTURE/PIERCE   |

Q2 - I have searched CMS(ii) for offences recorded under the Home Office Offence Class 10D Possession of ARTICLE WITH Blade or Point, where the offence was recorded on the Crime Register between 01-Jan-2013 and 04-Dec-2017 where a named offender is aged 16 or under at the time of the offence.

### **CONNECT Data –**

When extracting data from CONNECT, in order to fulfil the Home Office Data return, each offence is reviewed at record level in order to identify if the circumstances of offence fit the criteria for the Home Office definition. We identify offences recorded with a weapon type or property class of Knife or where the keyword - Use of Knife or other Sharp Instrument has been recorded.

Therefore, in order to fulfil Q1 for dates 05-Dec-2017 – 31-Dec-2018, each offence would have to be reviewed at record level, which is likely to exceed the 18 hour rule. I can provide the data return for 2018, however this would not take in account the age of the victim as this isn't a requirement of the Home Office for the purpose of this return.

Q2 – 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 age, I cannot currently fulfil this part of the request for CONNECT.

I can provide a count of offences recorded under the Home Office Offence class 10D Possession of ARTICLE WITH Blade or Point, where the offence was recorded for CONNECT Crime between 05-Dec-2017 and 31-Dec-2018, however this would not take in account the age of the offender due to the said issues regarding offender data in CONNECT.

On the basis of the above explanation, I have not supplied generic data for knife crime for 2018, since we are presently unable to meet the specific parameters of your request. If this would be useful however, please let me know and I will be happy to provide these.