

4 May 2019

Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20190827

REQUEST

1. Please can you supply a breakdown of knife crime offences for the calendar years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and to the end of March 2019 by individual neighbourhoods within the boundaries of your police force.
2. Please can you give a breakdown for the calendar years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and to the end of March 2019 by individual neighbourhoods of knife crime offences, broken down by:
 - a) Homicide
 - b) Assault with injury and assault with intent to cause serious harm
 - c) Robbery
3. Please can you give a breakdown for the calendar years 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and to the end of March 2019 by individual neighbourhoods of knife crime offences, broken down by the number resulting in a charge or summons.
4. Please can you give a breakdown for 2018 calendar year of knife crime offences by ethnicity of the victim by individual neighbourhoods; please use the categories a) black, b) white, c) Asian, d) mixed and e) other (as per ONS categories).
5. Please can you give a breakdown for 2018 calendar year of knife crime offences by ethnicity of the suspect by individual neighbourhoods; please use the categories a) black, b) white, c) Asian, d) mixed and e) other (as per ONS categories).
6. Please can you give a breakdown for 2018 calendar year of knife crime offences by age of the victims by individual neighbourhoods; please use the categories a) Under 18, b) 18-24, c) 25-34, d) 35-44, e) 45-54 and f) 55+
7. Please can you give a breakdown for 2018 calendar year of knife crime offences by age of the suspects by individual neighbourhoods; please use the categories a) Under 18, b) 18-24, c) 25-34, d) 35-44, e) 45-54 and f) 55+
8. Please can you give a breakdown for 2018 calendar year of knife crime offences by gender of the victims by individual neighbourhoods;
9. Please can you give a breakdown for 2018 calendar year of knife crime offences by gender of the suspects by individual neighbourhoods;

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:

I cannot provide the data broken down by 'individual neighbourhoods' as requested because the data we upload to Police.uk isn't in this format. We upload the easting and northing from the scene of crime, therefore for us to replicate this, this would be then creating new information to service this request and would likely exceed the 18 hour rule. However, I have provided details of the scene of crime District & Area for offences recorded on the CMS(ii) Crime Register between 01-Jan-2014 and 04-Dec-2017 where the following conditions have been applied –

Where the offence was recorded in accordance with the Home Office Data Return 160 – Use of Knives and other sharp instruments –

Where the Home Office Class is –

HOME OFFICE OFFENCE CLASS
ASSAULT WITH INJURY
ASSAULT WITH INJURY ON A CONSTABLE
ASSAULT WITH INTENT TO CAUSE SERIOUS HARM
ATTEMPT MURDER
ENDANGERING LIFE
MURDER
RACIALLY OR RELIGIOUSLY AGGRAVATED ASSAULT WITH INJURY
RAPE
ROBBERY
SEXUAL ASSAULT
THREATS TO KILL

And the weapon type is either of the following -

Weapon Type
AXE
BASEBALL BAT ADAPTED - BLADE INSERTED
BROKEN BOTTLE
BROKEN GLASS OBJECT
CROSSBOW / BOW AND ARROW
CUTLERY - FORK
DART
FLICK / LOCK KNIFE
FLICK KNIFE
HATCHET

HYPODERMIC NEEDLE / SYRINGE
KITCHEN KNIFE
KNIFE / DAGGER
LOCK KNIFE
MACHETE
MEAT CLEAVER
NEEDLE,PIN(NOT HYPODERMIC NEEDLE)
OTHER SHARP / POINTED INSTRUMENT
PEN KNIFE
RAZOR / RAZORBLADE
SAW
SCALPEL
SCISSORS
STANLEY KNIFE / BLADE
SWORD/BAYONET

And the Weapon Usage is

Weapon Usage
CONCEALED BUT VICTIM THREATENED
CUTTING
GLASSING
IMPLEMENT USED AS A PHYSICAL THREAT
STABBING/SLASHING/PUNCTURE/PIERCE

Of the offence count, I have provided a breakdown by scene of crime District & Area and a breakdown of the offence outcome.

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 Knife offence 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 this request for dates 05-Dec-2017 – 31-Mar-2019, each offence would have to be reviewed again at record level because details of the scene of crime, victim or offender are not collated for the purpose of this return as this isn't a requirement from the Home Office. Additionally, due to the ongoing issues I would not be able to provide data regarding offenders in CONNECT. 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.

I have therefore provided what is possible within the timeframe - the totals for the Knife Crime Data Return for CONNECT Data for 2018 as per our Home Office return.