

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 003353
Date 13 March 2019

Knives in Schools

Request:

Can you provide answers to the following questions for each year from 2013 to the present:

How many knives or similar offensive weapons have been seized in your schools in each year from 2013 to present?

In your answer can you please provide figures for secondary schools and primary schools separately.

Can you also specify whether the knife was found to be in the possession of a boy or girl and their age, or neither (ie discarded on school premises).

How many injuries have been caused by knives or similar offensive weapons in secondary schools and primary schools in the same period. Can you specify the age of the victim and whether a pupil or a teacher, or visitor to the school.

In how many of these has the victim required hospital treatment. Can you specify the age of the victim and whether a pupil or a teacher, or visitor to the school.

How many pupils have been excluded for possession or use of a knife on school premises in each year from 2013 to present?

How many times have police been called to schools to deal with incidents involving pupil behaviour in each year from 2013 to present?

In response to your above questions, [Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000](#) places two duties on public authorities. Unless exemptions apply, the first duty at:

[Section 1\(1\) \(a\)](#) is to confirm or deny whether the information specified in a request is held.

The second duty at [Section 1\(1\)\(b\)](#) is to disclose information that has been confirmed as being held.

[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

In respect of your above questions, it has been established after careful consideration that the Council does not hold the above information in this particular subject concerning knives. We do have the ability to report whether the exclusion was due to an offensive weapon but cannot confirm whether this was due to the possession or use of a knife specifically.

Consequently, we are unable to provide any information relating to the above, and are informing you as required by Section 1(1) (a) of the Act, that states:

"Any person making a request for information to a public authority is entitled to be informed in writing by the public authority whether it holds information of the description specified in the request".