

Our ref: 01/FOI/24/011945/R

Please quote our reference
number when responding

Saturday, 10 February 2024

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/24/011945/R

I write in connection with your request for information dated 14/01/2024, I note you seek access to the following information:

I would like to know what data Greater Manchester Police holds on children that have been caught with a knife and/or been attacked with a knife.

The date needed is from Jan 2019 to October 2023 and would like the data broken down by year.

I am looking for records that collates information specifically pertaining to 6 to 13 year olds and breaks it down by age (ie individual stats for 6 year olds, 7 years olds, etc) on the following:

- 1. The number of children within that age bracket who have been found with a knife by the police*
- 2. The number of children within that age bracket that have been a victim of knife related crimes committed by other adults*
- 3. The number of children within that age bracket who have been a victim of knife related crimes by other children*
- 4. The number of children within the ages of 10 to 13 that have been charged for carrying a knife.*

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police to locate information relevant to your request. I can confirm that the information you have requested is held by Greater Manchester Police.

Caveats

In July 2019, GMP implemented one of the largest IT infrastructure changes in UK policing. The systems are in continual development and the data provided for this request is what the systems currently hold.

Parts 1 and 4:

- The data for parts 1&4 contains crimes recorded under Home Office classification 10D (possession of an article with a blade or point) with a created date between 1st January 2019 and 31st October 2023 with suspect age greater than or equal to 6 and less than or equal to 13 years, excluding cancelled crimes. Further information about cancelled crimes can be obtained from the Home Office Counting Rules.

Parts 2 and 3:

- This data contains knife crimes as defined by the Home Office under the ADR 160, where the victim age is greater than or equal to 6 and less than or equal to 13 years.
- All previous knife crime data that has been submitted prior to September 2023 is correct, however the data we currently hold and report on does not capture all knife crime. This has recently been highlighted as a system error and dates back to 2019. We are currently working with the supplier to get an urgent fix, to ensure that all data can be updated and shows in the reports we produce. As it stands, we can provide data up to and including September 2023, however this data may change in the near future, once we have a fix in place. We will be able to re-run the data via NDQIS (National Data Quality Improvement Service) which is a service used by several other forces. This will provide any previous missed data, we just won't be able to give a timeline on when this issue will be fixed.
- We hold knife crime data from July 2019 onwards.

Suspect and Victim Age:

- Suspect and Victim Age have been calculated using the crime committed date and the person date of birth. Please note:
 - The crime committed date may be different to other dates e.g. reported or created.
 - The crime committed date may be recorded as a range where the crime occurred over a period of time or where it is not possible to say exactly when it occurred. In these cases, the first date in the range has been used for the calculation.
 - Age cannot be calculated where the crime committed date and/or person date of birth has not been recorded.
 - The calculated age may be incorrect where the person date of birth has been recorded incorrectly.

- For parts 2 & 3, suspects aged 17 or below have been designated as 'child', suspects aged 18 or above have been designated as 'adult'.

The numbers marked as "X" - This information is held by GMP but I am not obliged to provide it as an exemption applies.

Due to the low results, the information has been exempted from disclosure under **Section 40(2) Personal Information** – this information constitutes personal data of an identifiable living individual, and to disclose this information would breach the principles of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018. Personal data is defined by Section 1 of the Data Protection Act 1998 and means data that relates to an individual who can be identified directly or indirectly from that data.

Response

1.

Suspect Age	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Number of suspects (2019)	X	X	X	9	7	36	42	52
Number of suspects (2020)	X	0	X	3	7	20	24	47
Number of suspects (2021)	X	X	4	8	16	42	48	55
Number of suspects (2022)	X	X	X	9	18	37	54	56
Number of suspects (2023)	X	0	4	4	12	26	40	48

2.

Victim Age	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Number of crimes (2019)	X	X	0	X	X	0	X	2
Number of crimes (2020)	0	X	X	0	X	X	X	8
Number of crimes (2021)	0	X	X	X	X	X	9	4
Number of crimes (2022)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	8
Number of crimes (2023 - up to 31 st May)	0	X	0	0	X	X	4	5
Number of crimes (2023 - from 1 st June)	0	0	X	X	0	X	X	X

3.

Victim Age	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Number of crimes (2019)	X	X	0	4	X	8	7	17
Number of crimes (2020)	0	0	X	3	6	6	8	26
Number of crimes (2021)	X	3	4	8	6	22	35	36
Number of crimes (2022)	0	X	X	9	7	17	26	38
Number of crimes (2023 - up to 31 st May)	0	0	X	4	3	8	16	15
Number of crimes (2023 - from 1 st June)	0	0	0	X	0	X	5	10

4.

Suspect Age	10	11	12	13
Number of suspects (2019)	0	X	0	X
Number of suspects (2020)	0	X	0	4
Number of suspects (2021)	0	X	X	X
Number of suspects (2022)	0	X	X	5
Number of suspects (2023)	0	X	0	3