

Chief Constable
Chief Constable Robert Carden
Police Headquarters
Carleton Hall Penrith,
Cumbria
CA10 2AU



16 April 2025

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 345/25

I refer to your request for information which was received by Cumbria Constabulary on 20 March 2025. I note you seek access to the following information:

Please could you provide a list of the annual number of in-school knife-related incidents that police from your force have attended, for the last three years (2022, 2023, 2024), as well as a year-so-far number for 2025?

Your request for information has now been considered and I can confirm Cumbria Constabulary does hold some information relevant to your request and where this is the case, I have today decided to disclose this to you.

Number of incidents attended by police from identified knife crimes recorded in schools between 01/01/2022-28/02/2025:

2022	2023	2024	2025	Grand Total
12	14	12	2	40

The information provided in response to your request has been extracted from the Constabulary's crime recording system. To identify knife crime other than possession of weapon offences, software is used to identify knife crime using keywords. These crimes were then cross referenced with the place of offence containing one of the following keywords:

school
primary
infant
junior
secondary
grammar
QEGS
academy
CofE
C of E
pupil referral
learning hub



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learning centre
PRU

Please note: A keyword search may not accurately identify all information held by the Constabulary. If, for example, the keyword(s) were recorded in a different field to that which has been searched, or if another name or term was used to describe knife related incidents which happen at schools, any such records would not be identified by the keyword search which has been undertaken. For this reason, although provided in good faith, the information may not be wholly accurate.

Please also note that some of the offences above may not have occurred on school premises and may have been on the way to/from school. The place of 'offence premise' name has been manually checked for relevance and anything clearly stating outside of school grounds in the premise name description has been excluded. All 'possession of bladed articles in schools' offences (subclass codes 008/27 and 0080/62) have been included except for where the premise name clearly states university or college.

The software data is completed on a monthly basis to identify crimes involving a knife or sharp weapon, to the end of February 2025 has been provided.

Whilst every care has been taken in the retrieval of the information provided, please do not hesitate to contact us for clarification, if you do have any issues or queries relating to this data.

Complaint Rights

Your attention is drawn to the attached sheet, which details your right of complaint.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in Cumbria Constabulary.



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