

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



3rd March 2025

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 181/25 Weapons in Schools

I refer to your request for information received by Cumbria Constabulary on the 7th of February 2025. I note you seek access to the following information:

1. *I would like to know how many reports were made of weapon possession in schools.*
2. *I would also like to know how many reports were made of attacks involving blades or sharp instruments in schools.*

For each of these requests I would like a breakdown of the figures by the years 2014,2015,2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024

If the number of years requested is too large, please just complete for the years 2019-2024

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.

The information provided in response to your request has been extracted from the Constabulary's crime recording system. A keyword search has been conducted using the following terms. 'School' 'primary' 'infant' 'junior' 'secondary' 'grammar' 'QEGS' 'academy' 'CofE' 'C of E' 'pupil referral' 'learning hub' 'learning centre' 'PRU'.

Please note, a keyword search may not accurately identify all information held by the Constabulary. If, for example, the terms used were recorded in a different field, or if another name or term was used to describe these, any such records would not be identified by the keyword search which has been undertaken.

It should also be noted that some of these offences 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, anything clearly stating outside of school's grounds in the premise name description has been excluded. Please note all 'possession of weapons in schools' offences (subclass codes 008/27 & 008/62) have been included except for where the premise name clearly states university or college.

Question 1 –



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Number of recorded crimes for possession of weapons offences using keyword match in 'place of offence entered premise name' to identify schools between 01/01/2014 - 31/12/2024

Offence detail	Year											Grand Total
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Possession of weapons offences												
Possession of Article with Blade or Point	4	4	6	4	12	12	2	17	12	15	10	98
Possession of Firearms Offences							1		1			2
Possession of Other Weapons			1	1	1	2	3		8	5	5	26
Grand Total	4	4	7	5	13	14	6	17	21	20	15	126

Question 2 –

Number of recorded crimes for violence against the person offences involving knife or sharp weapon using keyword match in 'place of offence entered premise name' to identify schools between 01/01/2014 - 31/12/2024

Violence against the person offences	Year											Grand Total
	2014	2015	2016	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024		
Grand Total	1	2	1	3	5	1	1	4	1	7		26

Police forces in the United Kingdom are routinely required to provide statistics to government bodies and the recording criteria is set nationally. However, the systems used for recording these figures are not generic, nor are the procedures used locally in capturing the data. It should be noted that for these reasons this force's response to your questions should not be used for comparison purposes with any other response you may receive.

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



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If you believe your request has not been properly handled, or you are otherwise dissatisfied with the outcome of your request, you have the right to request an internal review.

In the first instance, please email freedomofinformation@cumbria.police.uk quoting the FOI reference number and explain why you are dissatisfied. Your complaint will be considered and a response will be provided to you after your complaint has been investigated.

If you remain dissatisfied following conclusion of the internal review, you have the right, under section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to complain directly to the Information Commissioner.

The address for the Information Commissioner can be found below:

The Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Complaints to the Information Commissioner can also be made online:

[Make a complaint | ICO](#)

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



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