



WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE

Information Management

Freedom Of Information

PO BOX 9
Laburnum Road
Wakefield
WF1 3QP

Tel: 01924 296006

Fax: 01924 292726

Email: foi@westyorkshire.pnn.police.uk

Website: www.westyorkshire.police.uk

Our ref: 1714/20

Date: 16/07/2020

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for your request for information, received by West Yorkshire Police on 11/03/20.

You requested the following information:

I am looking for statistics regarding how many children aged 10 and under have been stopped and searched by police in the West Yorkshire region, in the years 2017, 2018, 2019, and, where your records allow, 2020 thus far.

I am also requesting a breakdown of exactly how many children of each age (e.g. 1 through to 10) have been stopped and searched, as well as the overall figure.

I am also requesting reports and comments by any officers involved in each individual case - as to why they stopped and searched each child

Please see the table below showing Stop Searches of persons aged 10 and under, 01/01/2017 to 29/02/2020.

Year	Age	Reason for Stop Search
2017	10	Offensive Weapon
2017	10	Going Equipped
2017	10	Firearms
2017	10	Offensive Weapon
2017	10	Articles Relating to Criminal Damage
2017	10	Stolen Property
2017	10	Offensive Weapon
2017	9	Going Equipped
2017	8	Drugs
2018	10	Articles Relating to Criminal Damage
2018	10	Articles Relating to Criminal Damage
2018	7	Stolen Property

2018	10	Offensive Weapon
2019	10	Going Equipped
2019	10	Going Equipped
2019	8	Firearms
2019	9	Offensive Weapon
2019	10	Fireworks
2019	8	Going Equipped
2020	10	Offensive Weapon
2020	10	Offensive Weapon

Data represents the number of stop and searches recorded during the period where:
- the person was recorded as being aged 10 or under

Data excludes records where a person's date of birth is not recorded or recorded incorrectly.

Please note that the reason for the stop search does not indicate that any item was found.

West Yorkshire Police acknowledges that stop and search powers provide an effective means of preventing and detecting crime. We recognise the need for transparency in what we do, and through the lawful and proportionate use of stop and search, we aim to tackle crime and increase public confidence.

The figures provided relate to the total number of people stopped and searched. The power to stop and search stems from a number of Acts including the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, the Firearms Act 1968, the Terrorism Act 2000 and in the case of PCSO's the Police Reform Act 2002 which provides the power to search for alcohol and tobacco.

The figures provided in regard to age relate to where this information is known. West Yorkshire Police exercises powers of stop and search in line with Code A of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984.

West Yorkshire Police also complies with the 'Best Use of Stop and Search' scheme as amended in 2019 including the need for a Community Trigger for stop search complaints. Our approach is designed to ensure transparency and accountability in the use of stop and search.

Further information about stop search categories and powers can be found within section 5 of the User Guide to Police Powers & Procedures Statistics:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/police-powers-and-procedures-in-england-and-wales-201112-user-guide

COMPLAINT RIGHTS

If you are not satisfied with how this request has been handled or with the information provided, please read the advice notice attached to this letter. If you do wish to take up your right of complaint, please remember to quote the reference number above, in any future correspondence.

Yours sincerely,

Gemma Burton
Disclosure Officer

COMPLAINT RIGHTS

1. Are you unhappy with how your request has been handled or you think the decision is incorrect?

You have the right to request that West Yorkshire Police review their decision. Prior to lodging a formal complaint, we encouraged that you discuss the decision with the case officer that has dealt with your request.

2. Ask to have the decision looked at again

The quickest and easiest way to have the decision looked at again, is to telephone the case officer that is nominated at the end of your decision letter. That person will be able to discuss the decision, explain any issues and assist with any problems.

3. Complaint

If you are dissatisfied with the handling procedures or the decision of West Yorkshire Police, made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding access to information, you can lodge a written complaint to have the decision internally reviewed.

A West Yorkshire Police internal review of your decision, will be carried out by a senior member of staff who is fully trained in interpreting Freedom of Information legislation. The review will be independent conducted, regardless to the original decision made.

Complaints will only be treated as valid, if they are received by West Yorkshire Police within a 60 day timeframe from the date of the decision letter. They must include the original FOI Reference Number and can only be submitted in writing, by using the following contact details:

foi@westyorkshire.pnn.police.uk

or

West Yorkshire Police
FOI Internal Reviews
PO Box 9
Laburnum Road
Wakefield
WF1 3QP

In all possible circumstances, West Yorkshire Police will aim to complete and respond to your internal review within 20 working days. However this date may be extended in exceptional circumstances, by another 20 working days.

4. The Information Commissioner

If you are still dissatisfied with the internal review decision, made by West Yorkshire Police. You can then make an application to the Information Commissioner, for a decision on whether the request for information has been dealt with in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

For information on how to make application to the Information Commissioner please visit their website at www.ico.gov.uk

Alternatively, you can phone their helpline or write to them at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
FOI Help Line: 0303 1231113