

REQUEST

I seek information related to the following trial to cut knife crime:

'West Midlands Police is one of the four police forces taking part in the trial which begins tomorrow, Wednesday April 19, and also includes Sussex Police, Merseyside Police and Thames Valley Police.

The scheme works by allowing a court to issue the order which allows police to stop and search anyone over 18 who has a previous conviction for carrying a knife. Anyone caught (sic) the order could receive up to two years' imprisonment, an unlimited fine, or both.'

<https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.ventrytelegraph.net%2Fnews%2Flocal-news%2Fwest-midlands-police-trial-new-26721969&data=05%7C01%7Cfoi%40westmidlands.police.uk%7C0c380852bb4c46a800a108db41096603%7C2b0f1af29e024cfb982fc61fd716ee98%7C0%7C0%7C638175280842004844%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWlloiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6lk1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=%2B4QIJcWo73Hox7JMiCC37xAeP7O3kNUUOJsiMdsImYo%3D&reserved=0>

1. Please provide details of the order issued, including the area it covers and the date it expires.

Orders are not aligned to geographical areas, any SVRO is bespoke to an individual (Over 18) and is obtained through a relevant criminal conviction at court. The orders are given by the presiding court and can last anything between 6 months – 2 years, again the length of the order is determined by the court.

The pilot started on the 19th April we have 2 live SVROs.

2. Please provide the number of criminals in your area convicted of carrying knives in each of the last five calendar years.

We are unable to provide conviction information as this information is held by the courts and not routinely fed back into our systems. Each individual would need to be separately checked within the PNC and the detail checked to see if the conviction was fed into our system.

The following data is for individuals that have been charged / postal charge for carrying a knife.

| Month and year | Total |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| May-23 | 7 |
| Apr-23 | 76 |
| Mar-23 | 76 |
| Feb-23 | 75 |
| Jan-23 | 76 |
| Dec-22 | 53 |
| Nov-22 | 42 |
| Oct-22 | 87 |

| | |
|--------|----|
| Sep-22 | 69 |
| Aug-22 | 61 |
| Jul-22 | 57 |
| Jun-22 | 54 |
| May-22 | 57 |
| Apr-22 | 55 |
| Mar-22 | 60 |
| Feb-22 | 53 |
| Jan-22 | 58 |
| Dec-21 | 62 |
| Nov-21 | 60 |
| Oct-21 | 58 |
| Sep-21 | 53 |
| Aug-21 | 54 |
| Jul-21 | 65 |
| Jun-21 | 52 |
| May-21 | 47 |
| Apr-21 | 47 |

Information prior to April 2021 is held on an archive system, which has now been taken offline, therefore each weapon offence would need to be located, retrieved and manually read to see if the offender had carried a knife. For the years 2019 and 2020 we have approximately calculated (using the data within 2022)

706 offences x 2 years (2019 and 2020) = 1412 offences x 5 minutes per record = 118.15 hours this is in addition to the time already spent providing data for the other parts of your request.

3. Please provide all officer guidance related to the trial.

Please see attached.

The redacted information is exempt by

Section 40 – Personal Data.

Section 31- Law Enforcement