



Ministry of Defence Police

Freedom of Information Manager

Room 126 Building 1070

MDP Wethersfield

Braintree CM7 4AZ

United Kingdom

Telephone: +44 (0)1371 85[REDACTED]

E-mail: MDP-FOI-DP@mod.gov.uk

Our Ref: eCase: FOI 2020/14048
RFI:358/20

Date: 12 January 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000: MINISTRY OF DEFENCE POLICE:
CROSSBOW ACT 1987.**

We refer to your email dated 31 December 2020 to the Ministry of Defence Police which was acknowledged on the same date.

We are treating your email as a request for information in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA 2000).

In your email you requested the following information:

“The time period to which I want information from every question is from the inception of the law till the present day.

Section 4 of the Crossbows Act 1987 states:

(1)If a constable suspects with reasonable cause that a person is committing or has committed an offence under section 3, the constable may—

(a)search that person for a crossbow or part of a crossbow;

(b)search any vehicle, or anything in or on a vehicle, in or on which the constable suspects with reasonable cause there is a crossbow, or part of a crossbow, connected with the offence.

(2)A constable may detain a person or vehicle for the purpose of a search under subsection (1).

(3)A constable may seize and retain for the purpose of proceedings for an offence under this Act anything discovered by him in the course of a search under subsection (1) which appears to him to be a crossbow or part of a crossbow.

(4)For the purpose of exercising the powers conferred by this section a constable may enter any land other than a dwelling-house.

With that legislation in mind, I would like to know how many people have been searched since the law's inception to the present day in your policing area.

Section 2 of the Crossbows Act 1987 states:

A person under the age of [F1eighteen] who buys or hires a crossbow or a part of a crossbow is guilty of an offence.

With that legislation in mind, I would like to know how many people have been found guilty of an offence for either hiring or buying a crossbow since the law's inception to the present day in your policing area. In addition, I would like a Gender Breakdown of the offenders i.e. '76% of people arrested were female' etc.

Section 3 of the Crossbows Act 1987 states:

A person under the age of [F1eighteen] who has with him—

(a) a crossbow which is capable of discharging a missile, or

(b) parts of a crossbow which together (and without any other parts) can be assembled to form a crossbow capable of discharging a missile, is guilty of an offence, unless he is under the supervision of a person who is twenty-one years of age or older.

With that in mind I would like to know how many people under the age of 18 have been founded guilty of an offence for not being under the supervision of a person who is at least 21 years old in your policing area."

A search for information has now been completed by the Ministry of Defence Police and I can confirm that we do hold information in scope of your request.

Please note: our records are dated from January 1999.

Nil

If you have any queries regarding the content of this letter, please contact this office in the first instance.

If you wish to complain about the handling of your request, or the content of this response, you can request an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.gov.uk).

Please note that any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of the date of this response.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may raise your complaint directly to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not normally investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website at <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely

MDP Secretariat and Freedom of Information Office