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| Ministry of Justice | Data Access & Compliance Unit  Ministry of Justice  102 Petty France  London  SW1H 9AJ  [data.access@justice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:data.access@justice.gsi.gov.uk)  October 2017 |

**Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request –** 170919013

Thank you for your request in which you asked for the following information from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ):

***Between August 2014 and August 2017 how many defendants have been sentenced at Sheffield Crown Court for the following charges:***

***- Possession of an offensive weapon in a public place;***

***- Possession of an article with a blade/ point in a public place;***

***- Possession of an offensive weapon on school premises; and***

***- Possession of an article with blade/ point on school premises***

***Can you please provide a breakdown by year, so between August 2014-2015, August 2015-August 2016 and August 2016- August 2017.***

***Of those defendants how many had a previous relevant conviction for knife crime?***

***A ‘relevant offence’ includes those offences listed above and the following offences;***

***Threatening with an offensive weapon in a public place;***

***Threatening with an article with a blade/ point in a public place;***

***Threatening with an article with a blade/ point on school premises; and***

***Threatening with an offensive weapon on school premises.***

***Of the defendants who have two or more relevant convictions for knife crime, how many were given the the minimum sentence of at least 6 months imprisonment? And how many were given suspended sentences?***

Your request has been handled under the FOIA.

I can confirm that the MoJ holds the information that you have requested and I have provided it below.

Statistics on knife possession sentencing are not available up to August 2017, however your questions has been answered with the latest period that figures are available.

The table below illustrates number of offenders who were sentenced for the possession of knife or offensive weapon offence at Sheffield Crown Court for each year ending June between 2015 and 2017. For this group of offenders the table provides

1. the number of offenders who have been convicted or cautioned for one or more previous knife possession offences
2. the number of offenders who received a suspended sentence order who have been convicted or cautioned for two or more previous knife possession offences and
3. the number of offenders receiving an immediate custodial sentence of at least six months who have been convicted or cautioned for two or more previous knife possession offences.



These figures have been drawn from the Police National Computer which, as with any large scale administrative IT system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Yours sincerely

Justice Statistics Analytical Services