



SOUTH AUSTRALIA POLICE
KEEPING SA SAFE

Your Ref:
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Mr Lee Odenwalder
44 John Rice Avenue
ELIZABETH VALE SA 5112

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Dear Mr Odenwalder

Re: Freedom of Information Act application

In reference to your application made pursuant to the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* (FOI Act), access was sought to:

"From January 2018, a monthly breakdown of data/statistics related to offences reported to police where a bladed weapon was involved. May be offences where a bladed weapon was used, seized by police, sighted by police, or reported to police by a third party."

On 23 August 2021 I spoke to [REDACTED] of your office to clarify the scope of your request. She requested access to statistics as previously provided in Freedom of Information application 20/1451 where access was sought to:

"A monthly breakdown of data/statistics related to knives or any bladed implement detected/present during searches of premises, individuals and vehicles or resulting from criminal investigations."

It is determined to **release in full** the statistical data of offences reported to police from 2018 to 2021 broken down monthly for where an offensive weapon was involved – (includes axe/tomahawk; bow and arrow; chain saw; cross bow; knife; other bladed instrument; screwdriver; razor and spear gun). When interpreting the data it should be noted weapons may have not been used during the commission of a crime but merely sighted by the victim.

The data has been presented in the table below and was correct as at 6 September 2021.

NUMBER OF OFFENCES BY CALENDAR YEAR	MONTH OF YEAR												Total
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	
2018	294	253	308	251	242	258	271	352	307	274	387	461	3,658
2019	404	379	480	398	425	418	381	412	377	435	405	444	4,958
2020	417	355	331	318	381	342	339	341	358	332	379	378	4,271
2021	338	297	341	298	370	306	328	-	-	-	-	-	2,278
Total	1,453	1,284	1,460	1,265	1,418	1,324	1,319	1,105	1,042	1,041	1,171	1,283	15,165



It is determined to **release in full** the statistical data of offenders that were charged for carry offensive weapon from 2018 to 2021 broken down monthly. An offensive weapons includes a rifle, gun, pistol, knife, sword, club, bludgeon, truncheon or other offensive or lethal weapon or instrument. When interpreting the data it should be noted that any one of the offensive weapons may have not been used during the commission of a crime but merely sighted by the victim

The data has been presented in the table below and was correct as at 6 September 2021.

PERSONS CHARGED BY CALENDAR YEAR	MONTH												TOTAL
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	
2018	110	99	125	99	101	108	92	136	115	96	136	141	1,358
2019	108	117	173	125	126	125	154	117	111	123	132	146	1,557
2020	138	101	115	147	147	108	106	124	108	117	79	130	1,420
2021	88	105	113	92	102	75	97	-	-	-	-	-	672
TOTAL	444	422	526	463	476	416	449	377	334	336	347	417	5,007

In accordance with the requirements of Premier and Cabinet Circular PC045, details of your FOI application, and the documents to which you are given access, will be published on the SAPOL website Disclosure Log. A copy of PC045 can be found at https://www.dpc.sa.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0019/20818/PC045-Disclosure-Log-Policy.pdf. If you disagree with publication, please advise the undersigned in writing by 13 October 2021.

Yours sincerely



Sergeant Sandra Watson
Freedom of Information Unit
 (Accredited Freedom of Information Officer)

15 September 2021