

## REQUEST

A press release (titled 'Mayor urges more schools to take up knife wands in his crackdown on violent crime') stated that 76 'knife wands' had been distributed to London schools. I would like to see a list of schools who have been given a 'knife wand' under the mayor's scheme.

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## RESPONSE

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request of 16 January to the Mayor's Office for Policing And Crime (MOPAC) and I apologise for the delay in replying to you. I confirm that your request has been handled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and that MOPAC does hold information relating to your request.

You requested a list of schools who have been given a 'knife wand' under the mayor's scheme. This information is exempt from disclosure under Section 31 of the FOI Act – Prejudice to Law Enforcement, which refers to information held for the purpose of criminal investigations. Section 31 is a prejudiced based exemption and is therefore subject to the public interest test.

### Public Interest Test

If a list of schools issued with knife wands were released, there is a very real risk that those who carry knives into school premises would know which schools had knife wands and would therefore hide knives close to the school while the wands are in use, putting the local community at risk and resulting in the knife not being seized by school staff or police officers. This represents a serious and real prejudice to the prevention and detection of crime and the protection of communities.

In this case, the public interest in preventing the prejudice which would occur if the list of schools was released outweighs the public interest in disclosure., and therefore the information requested is exempt from disclosure.

If you are unhappy with the response to your Freedom of Information request, please see the MOPAC website on what the next steps are at:

<https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/mayors-office-policing-and-crime-mopac/governance-and-decision-making/freedom-information>