

Request reference: 4391/13

**1. Could you provide information on the number of firearms incidents handled by West Midlands Police from April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2012 and from April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013, with particular reference to the four Black Country boroughs of Walsall, Sandwell, Wolverhampton and Dudley.**

Total number of armed responses to incidents by the West Midlands Police Operations Firearms Unit across the boroughs of Walsall, Sandwell, Wolverhampton and Dudley.

2011/12 - 564

2012/13 - 532

**2. And could you provide details of continuing efforts to tackle gun crime in the force area.**

The force response to tackling gun crime is centred on strategies of effectively gathering intelligence and assessing the community impact.

The effective dissemination of intelligence and information as to relevant community tensions and their impact.

The collation of intelligence and information to inform the delivery of the strategy.

We deliver effective partnership working. We recognise the importance of all partners working together to deliver the strategy and ensure all partners are signed up to the aims of the strategy. Working together we share and develop intelligence and information through strong partnerships. Through the governance structure we have previously set clear targets and milestones to deliver against all aspects of the Criminal Use of Firearms Strategy.

The partners involved in the strategy have made valuable contribution. The group have influenced and harnessed the knowledge and resources of other partners to tackle and prevent the criminal use of firearms. We work together in order to develop frameworks that identify tactics.

We address the criminal use of firearms in partnership and in line with regional and national objectives. We work with partners work within local and national forums. We maintain and forge relationships on a local, regional and national scale to address the issue of the criminal use of firearms, sharing good practice and intelligence.

We engage businesses and third sector organisations in the delivery of our strategy's aims. As a group of partners we appreciate the role that third sector organisations and businesses play in the delivery of the Strategy.

The use of firearms in commercial robberies such as cash in transit has diminished with no criminal use of firearm being recorded in offences committed in the last twelve months.

**3. What particular incidents have resulted in perpetrators being brought to justice before the courts, listing examples.**

Details of incidents can be found on the West Midlands Police website, for example:

<http://www.west-midlands.police.uk/np/wolverhampton/news/newsitem.asp?id=14965>

<http://www.west-midlands.police.uk/np/Birminghamwestandcentral/news/newsitem.asp?id=10306>