

Directed study review

- What was **useful** in the reading?
- What **questions** did you have?
- Challenges with the vis? What would you like to know how to do?

COMMON PREATTENTIVE ATTRIBUTES

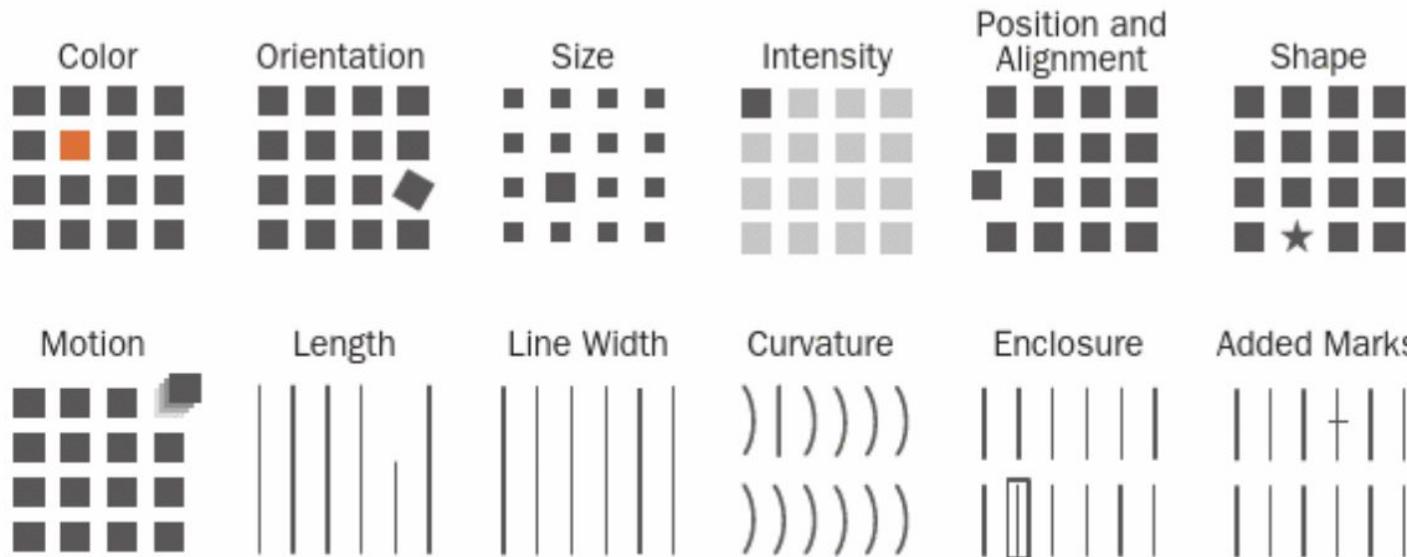


Figure 7.3 Preattentive attributes help people discern similarities and differences in data visualizations. These attributes can be essential in communicating your insights effectively.

COMMON GESTALT PRINCIPLES

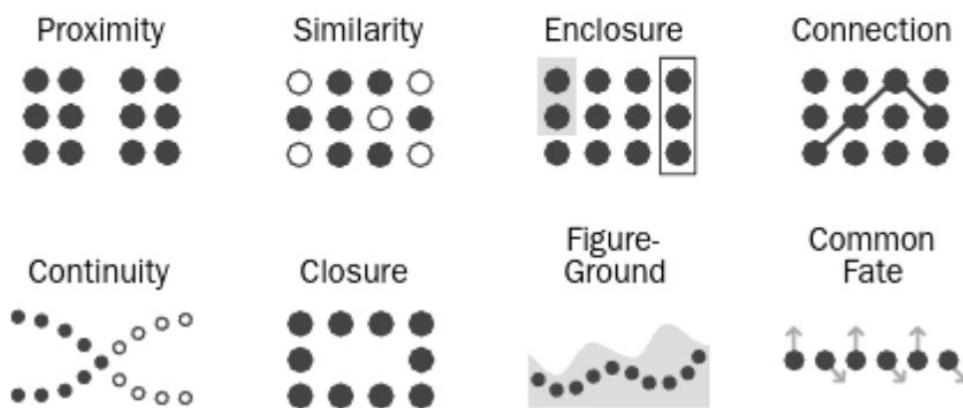


Figure 7.4 These Gestalt principles illustrate how human perception groups information together in different ways.

SEVEN ESSENTIAL PRINCIPLES FOR BETTER VISUAL STORYTELLING

PART 1—THE SETUP

1  RIGHT DATA

2  RIGHT VISUALIZATIONS

3  RIGHT CONFIGURATION

PART 2—THE POLISH

4  REMOVE NOISE

5  FOCUS ATTENTION

6  MAKE APPROACHABLE

7  INSTILL TRUST

Figure 7.7 The seven key principles of visual storytelling are divided into two major sections or parts: the Setup and th

FIVE DATA VARIATIONS TO CONSIDER

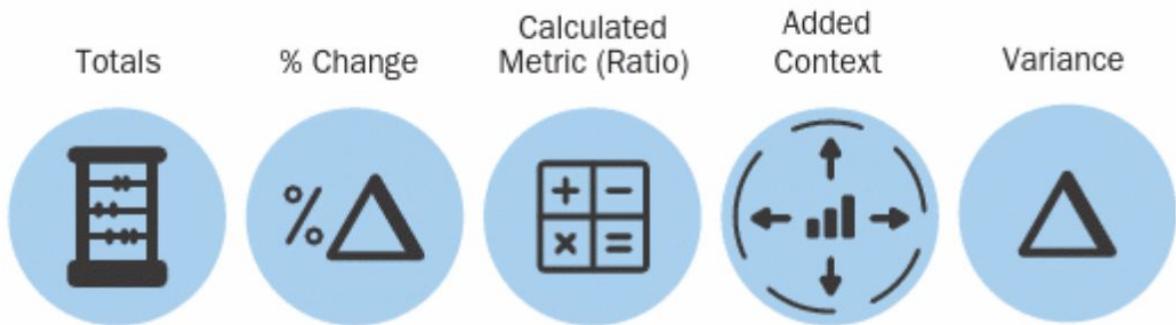


Figure 7.8 Sometimes, adjusting the underlying data may better convey your key insight to the audience.

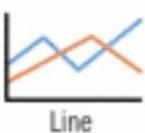
MAJOR CHART TYPE CATEGORIES FOR BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS

Comparison



Bar & Column

Trend



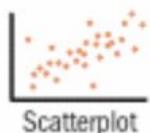
Line

Composition



Waffle

Relationship



Scatterplot

Distribution



Histogram

Spatial



Choropleth

Flow



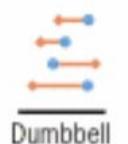
Funnel



Slopegraph



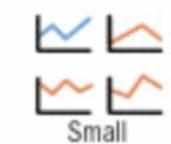
Small Multiple (Line)



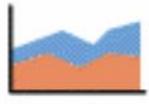
Dumbbell



Table



Column and Stacked Column



Stacked Area



100% Stacked Column



Pie and Donut



Treemap



XY Heatmap



Cloud



Box plot



Proportional Symbol



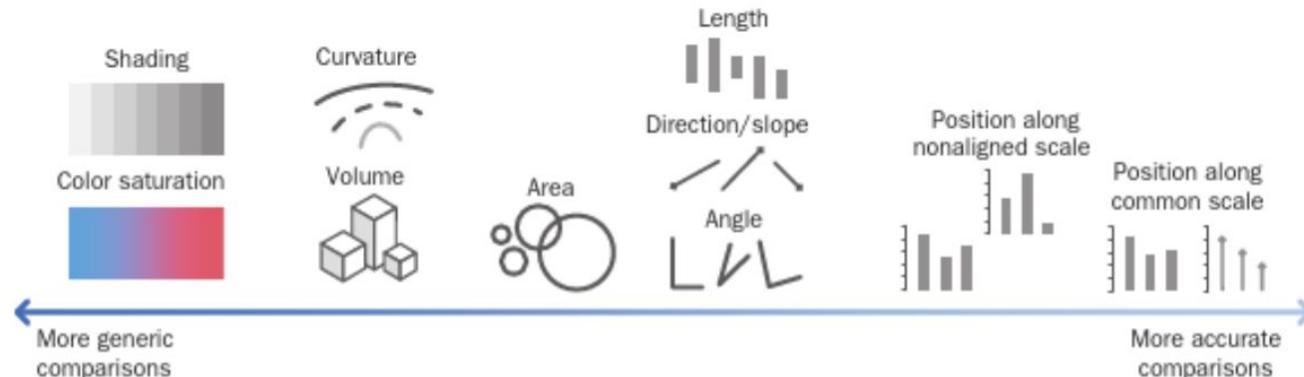
Heatmap



Chord

Figure 7.15 If you can isolate the one key characteristic of your use case, you can then select which chart type is best suited for the job.

CLEVELAND AND MCGILL'S GRAPHICAL PERCEPTION MODEL

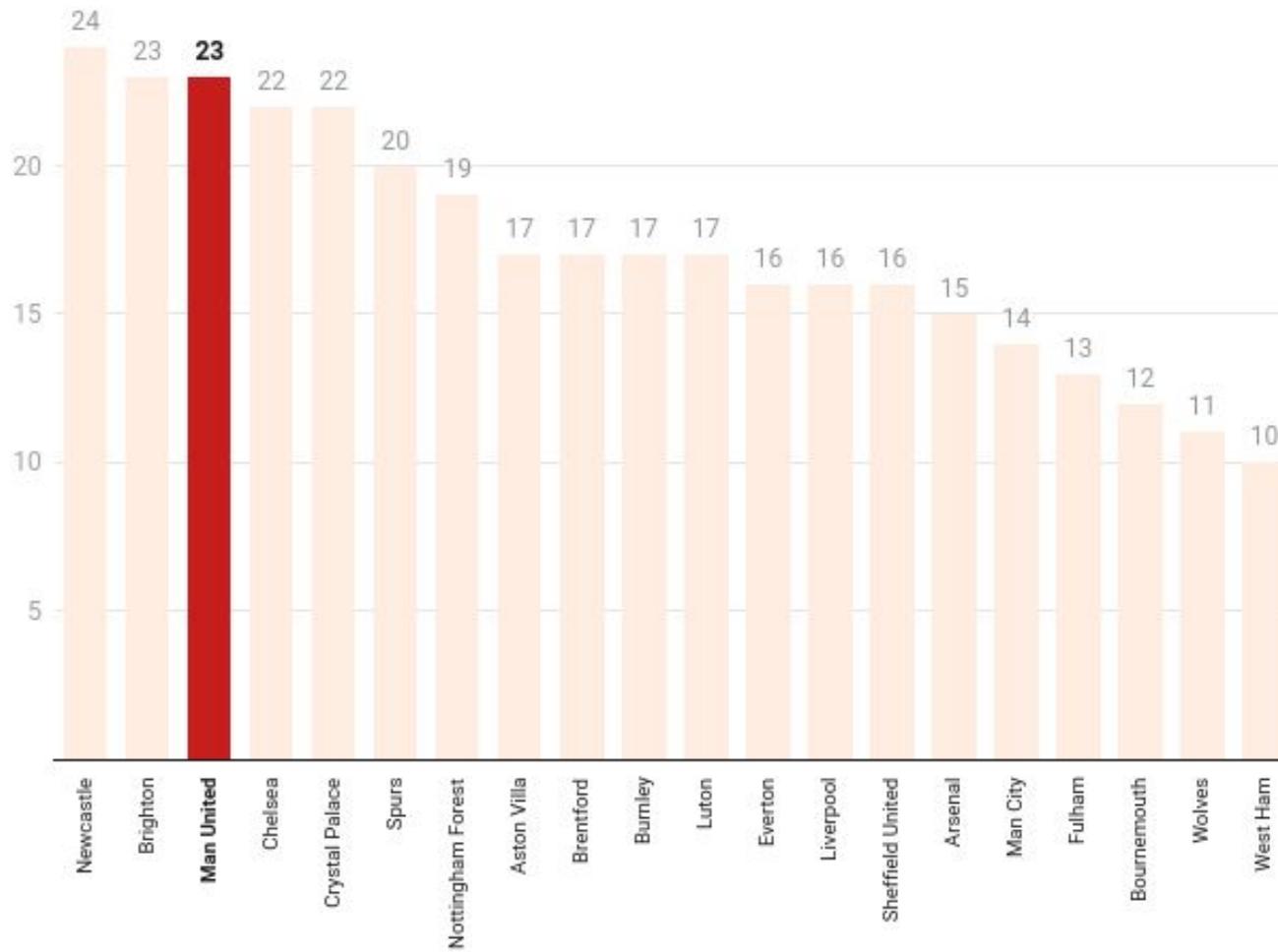


For your evaluation you could refer to the chapter to explain:

- Why you chose one chart type over another
- Why you chose to use colour, shape etc. in a particular way
- What elements could be improved - and how

Man United have the second highest injuries so far in the Premier League

The Red Devils have 23 injuries so far this season in the Premier League, only bettered by Newcastle with 24.



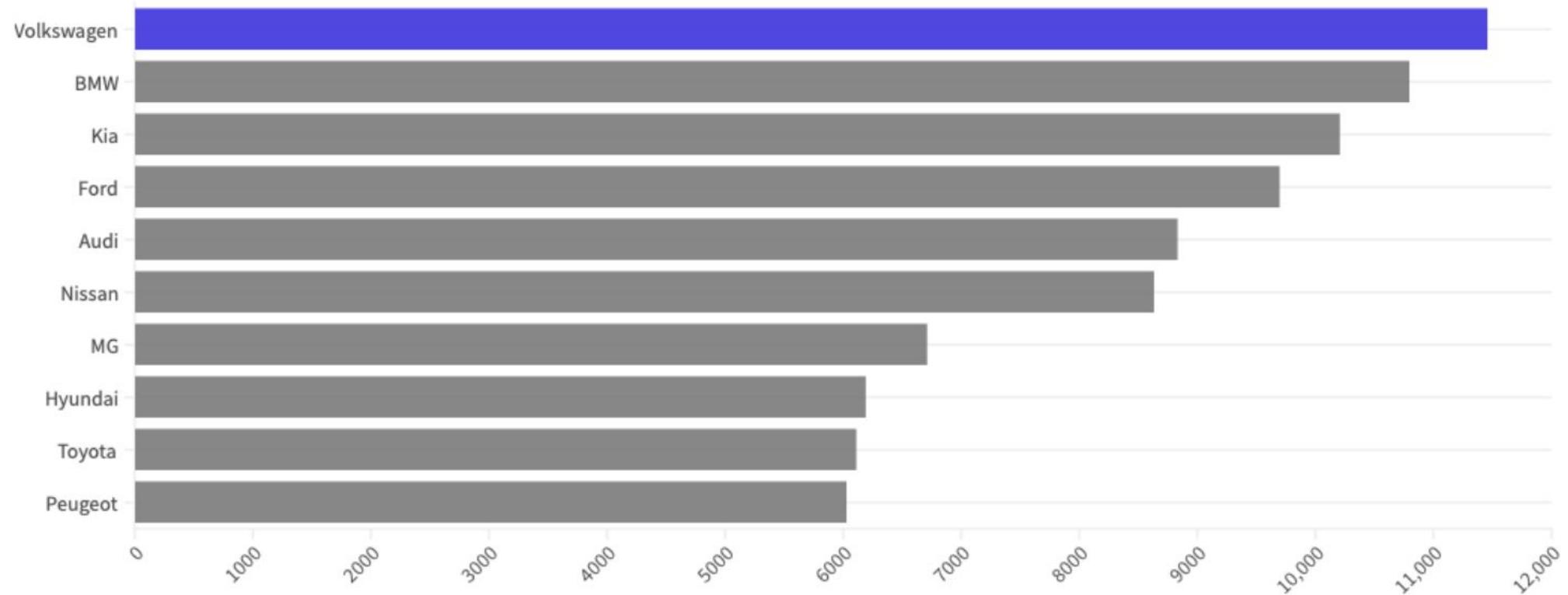
Newcastle have the highest amount of injuries this season with 24, with Man United and Brighton both having 23, with West Ham having the lowest with 10 and Wolves having 11.

Chart: Pardeep Kalirai, Birmingham Southside • Source: [Sky Sport](#) • [Get the data](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)



Volkswagen cars were the most registered new cars for January 2024

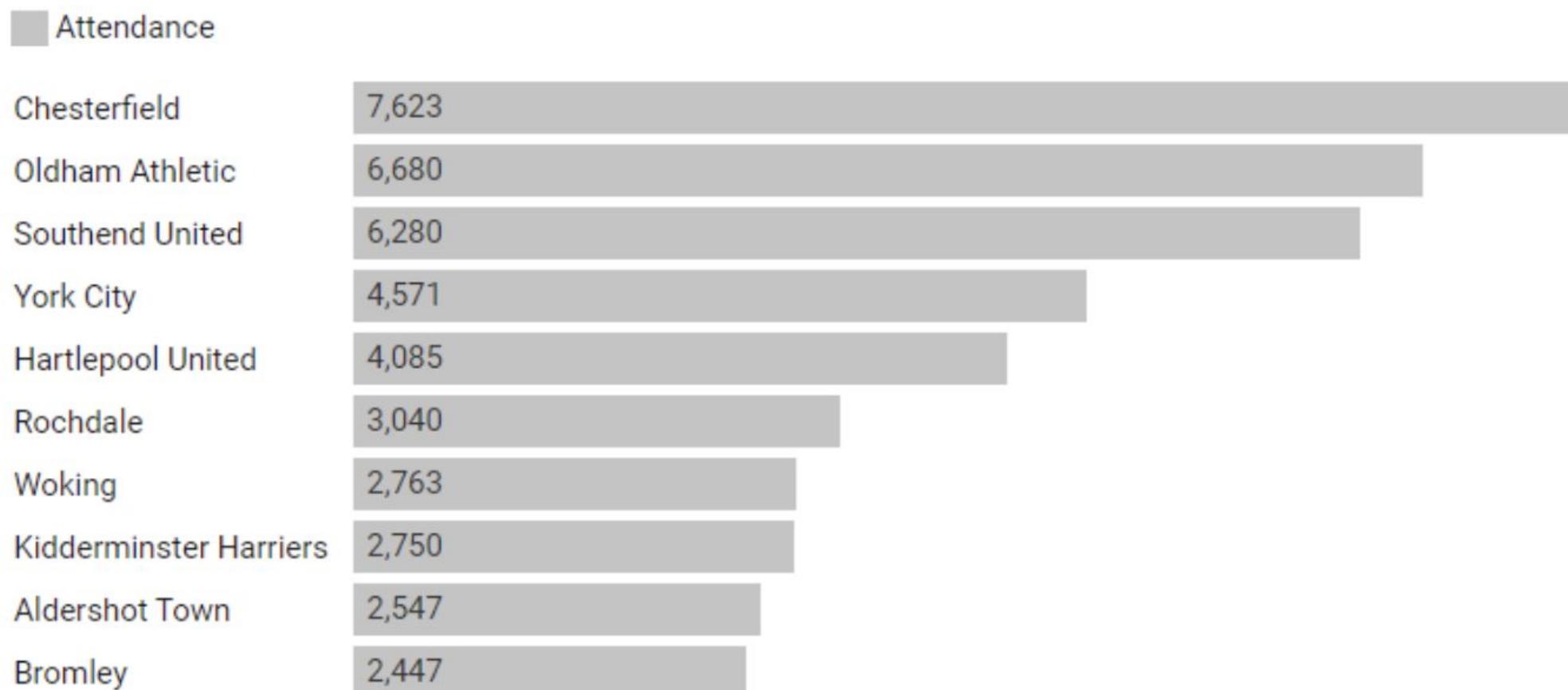
Volkswagen registered the most new cars for January 2024, even though they have experienced a drop in registrations when compared to January 2023



Source: SMMT <https://www.smmt.co.uk/vehicle-data/car-registrations/> • This chart looks at the top ten manufacturers that have had the most new vehicle's registered in January 2024. Manufacturers outside the top ten have not been included

Aaron Stokes, Birmingham Eastside.

Chesterfield top the table and attendance table



[Get the data](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)



Evaluation tip: include the ‘first draft’ of vis in an appendix

- Talk about what changes you identified
- “I chose to add a highlight colour”
- “I rewrote the title to tell a story”
- “I removed the legend as it wasn’t needed”
- “I tried three different approaches and chose the bar chart”

Better: reference why

- “I chose to add a highlight colour”
(Dykes 2019)
- “I rewrote the title to tell a story”
(Bradshaw 2024)
- “This was a comparison story so I tried a bar chart (Dykes 2019)”

Nottingham Forest have benefitted the most from VAR decisions



Net-scoring favours Forest, to the detriment of Liverpool and Wolverhampton Wanderers.

Team	Net-scoring
Nottingham Forest	4
Brentford	3
Fulham	3
Chelsea	2
Manchester City	2
West Ham United	2
Luton Town	1
AFC Bournemouth	0
Everton	0
Newcastle United	0
Tottenham Hotspur	0
Arsenal	-1
Aston Villa	-1
Burnley	-1
Brighton & Hove Albion	-2
Crystal Palace	-2
Manchester United	-2
Sheffield United	-2
Liverpool	-3
Wolverhampton Wanderers	-3

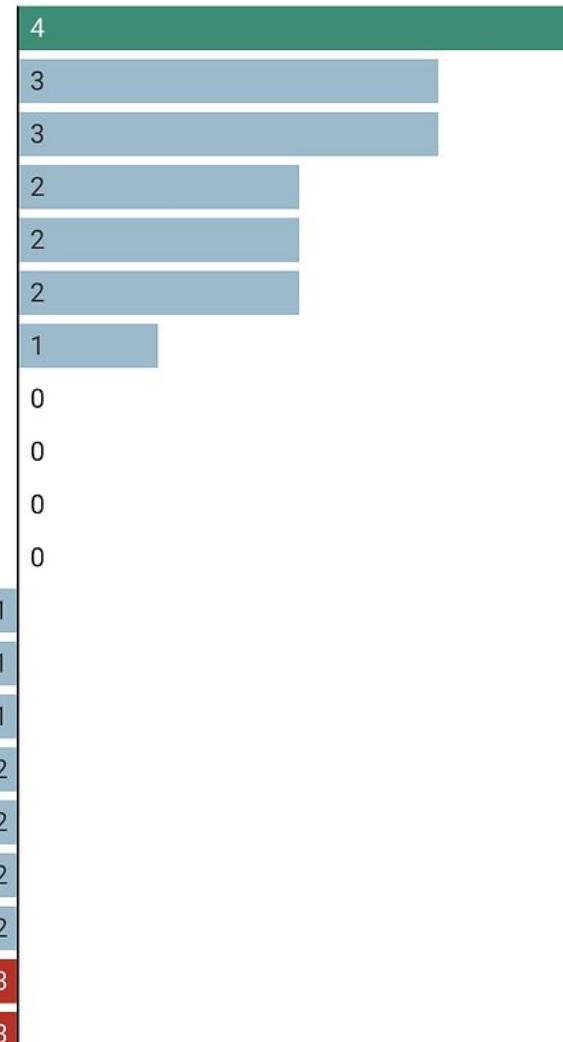
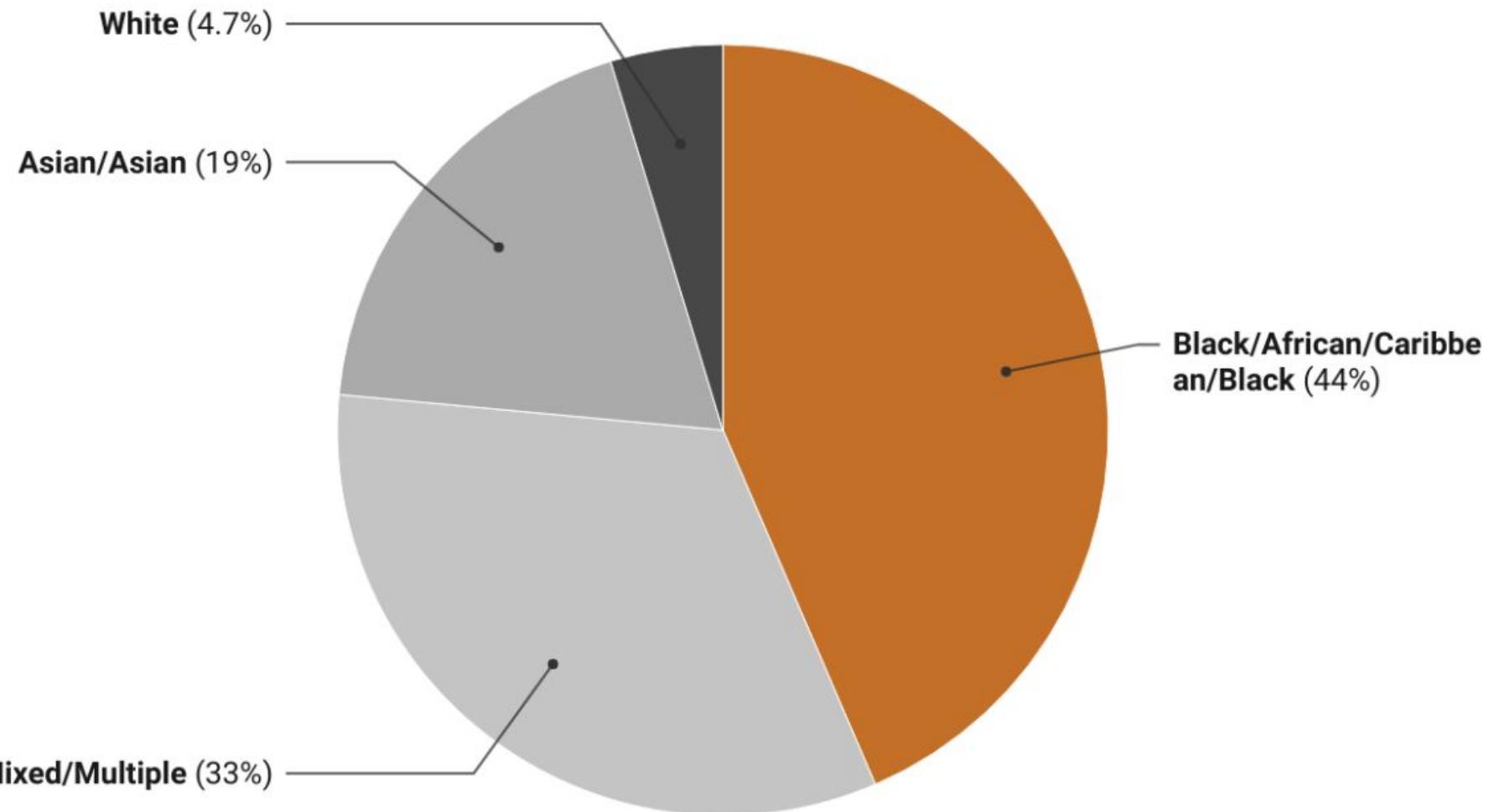


Chart: By Tom Keens • Created with Datawrapper

<https://tomkeens13.wixsite.com/tom-keens---sports-j/post/how-have-var-decisions-affected-each-premier-league-club-so-far-in-2023-24>

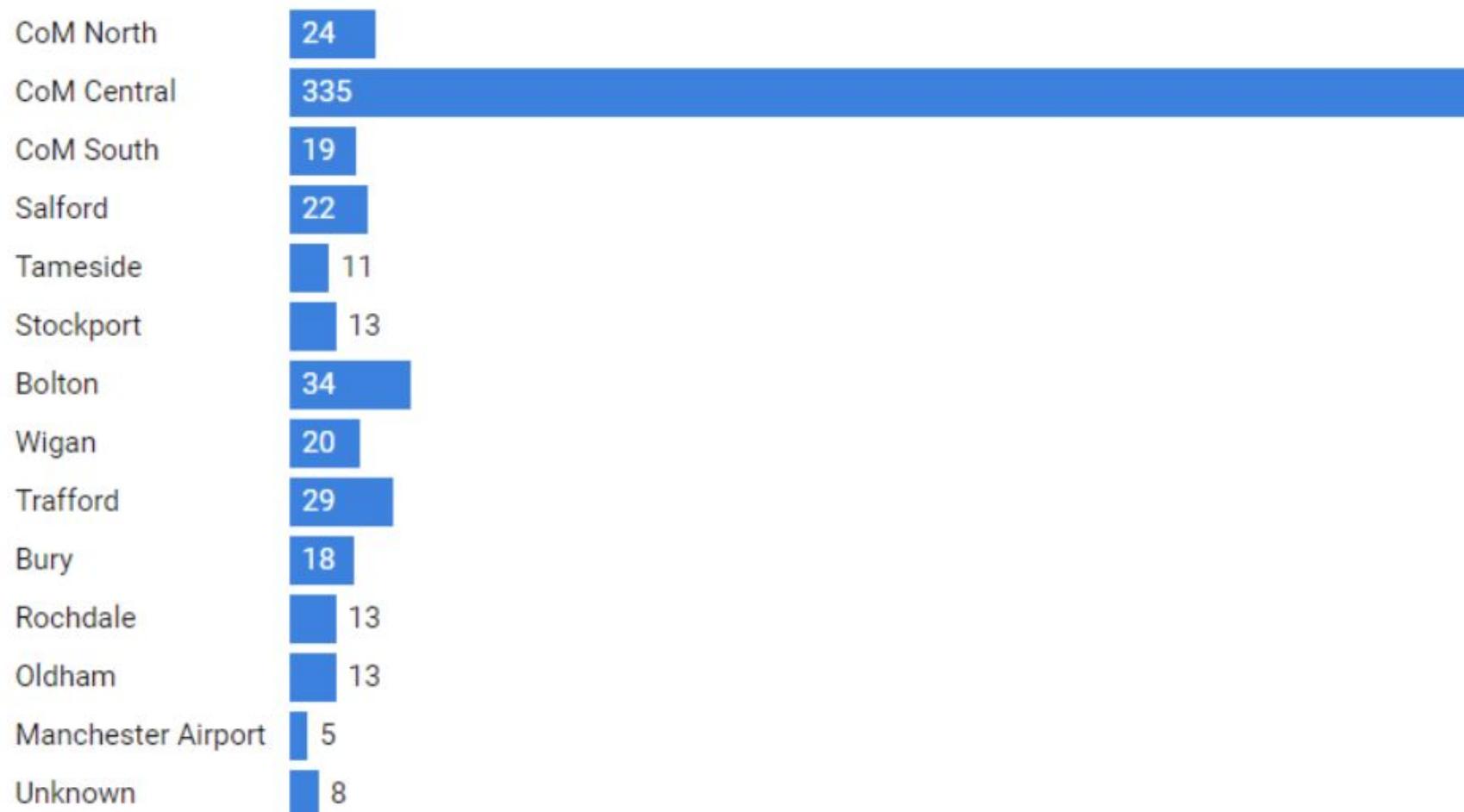
% of people of certain ethnicities stopped by stop and search in the West Midlands in 20-22

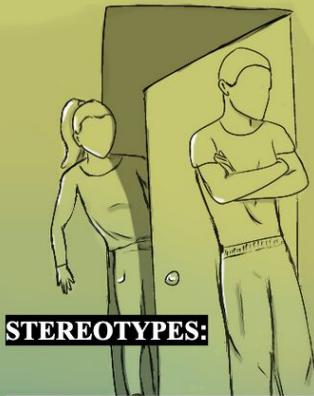
Percentage of people in the West Midlands by that are likely to be stopped by "Stop and search" in 20-22



Central Manchester had the most theft from person crimes in Greater Manchester in December 2023

The data shows the theft from person crimes around Greater Manchester during December 2023.





STEREOTYPES:

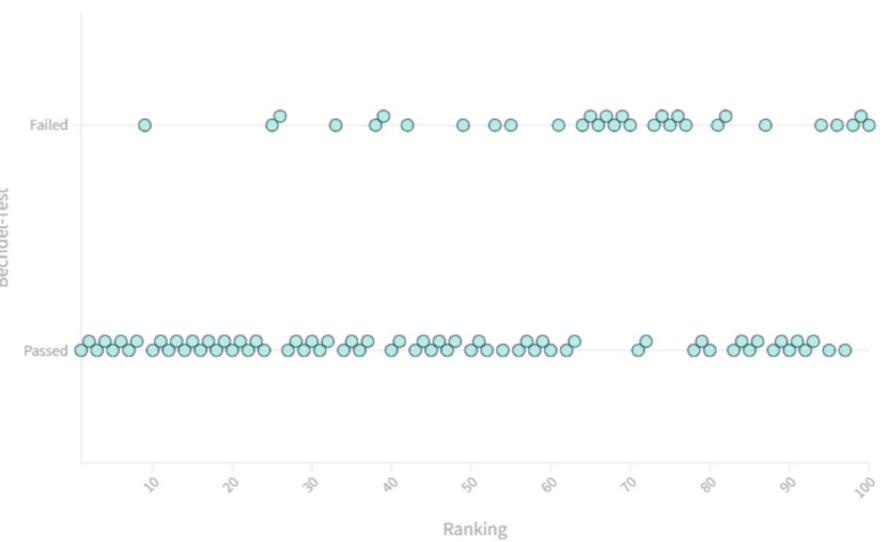
The 100 most successful films in the Bechdel test

What about the representation of women in movies? To answer this question, we've analysed the 100 most successful films of all time in Bechdel test.

by Leonie Kühn

The 100 most successful films in the Bechdel test

About a third of the 100 most successful films by revenue fail the Bechdel test.



For the full interactive map click on the following link:

<https://public.flourish.studio/visualisation/11492498/>

https://docs.google.com/document/d/15Q0ULe43sehLR9AOBNe_ukQrzWXjArq1A7zWu4zLXWM/edit

<https://public.flourish.studio/visualisation/11492498/>

CLIP

4



**Using FOI to get
exclusive stories**

What you should know by the end:

- How to come up with ideas for **exclusive stories** using FOI
- Your rights: who you can ask, **what you can ask for**
- How to phrase a **good FOI request**
- **And first: how to send a request...**



The children aren't happy.



Image
generated by
Pixlr AI
Image
Generator

The children aren't happy.

They might not be able to play football any more because **their match subs are going up** and their parents can't afford the new fees.

Why?

Because (among other things) the pitch fees are going up.

Why?

Because (among other things) there is more demand for pitches than supply.

Why?

Because (among other things) the council has fewer pitches.

Why?

Because the council sold some of the pitches.

Why?

Because the council doesn't have enough money (maintaining pitches costs money, and it needs to generate money for other “statutory” services: those it is legally required to provide)

Let's kick things off (ahem.)

- We are going to find out about **football pitches in the Midlands**
- We need to **scope** the subject and then identify **sources** (including data)
- We are looking to tell stories about **scale, change, ranking, variation**, etc.

A scoping document.

Scoping document: sports pitches project

Inspiration/models to follow

A model to follow is provided by the story [More than 700 council football pitches lost as austerity trashes next generation](#). Analysis by GMB based on FOI in 2019:

“There were 710 less local authority owned or operated football pitches in the financial year 2017/18 than there were in 2009/10 – before the Conservative’s austerity project began.

“The worst hit region was the North West, which lost a massive 164 pitches during that period.”

They led on a national angle, but each region or local authority (LA) would have its own angle too.

Search for background info

- How do local authorities fund pitches?
- What announcements have been made?
- What previous reporting? Reports?
- What strategies exist? Policies?
- What issues are connected?
- What clues/links can you research further?
● (Follow the money)
- Identify potential data sources
- Identify potential sources
- Identify FOI requests to learn from/adapt



The request was **successful**.

– Matthew Downey 6 November 2021

We can bring
this story up
to date

Dear Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council,

I write to request information via the Freedom of Information act.

- 1) How many grass football pitches are the council responsible for? Please split this up by pitch size if possible (5v5, 7v7, 9v9, 11v11). If this is not possible just the number of pitches will suffice.
- 2) How many times across the football seasons listed below has there been 'blanket' postponements by the council? A blanket postponement can be categorised as the council announcing none of their pitches can be played on at a particular weekend. This data should also provide the reason for blanket postponement.

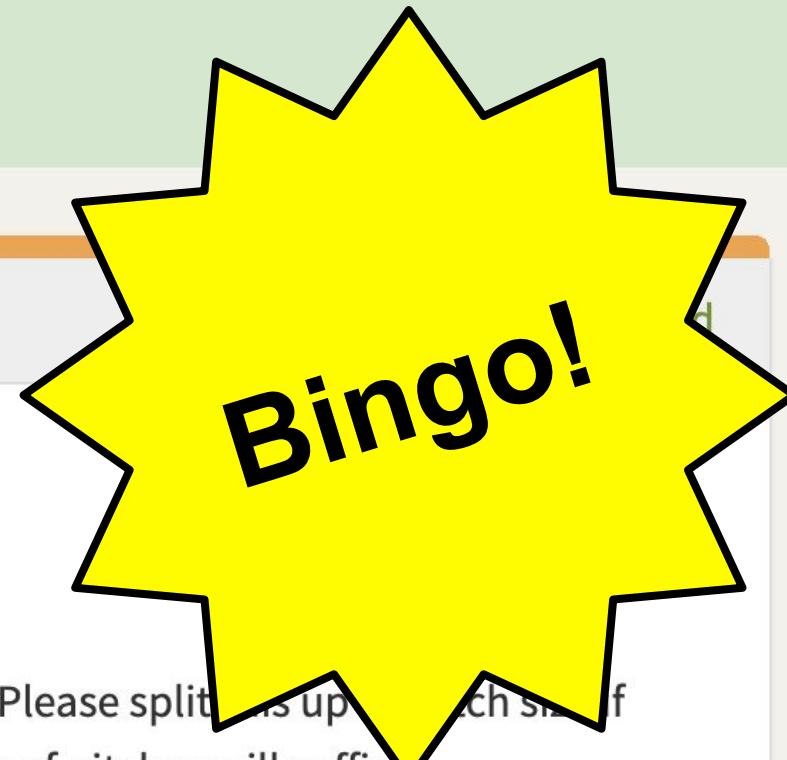
2017/18

2018/19

2019/20

2020/21

2021/22 (to date so far)



...and plan better stories

- **Model stories** you can replicate + update
 - **Problem** identified in reports = angle
 - **Plans** that you can follow up on + check
 - **Announcements** you can follow up on
 - **Data** that's already public (no FOI)
 - Other **information held** that you could FOI
 - **Jargon** you might need to use
 - **People** you can speak to for background
- Multiple stories! (Then combine them)

More than 700 council football pitches lost as austerity trashes next generation



Posted by GMB UNION
Monday 3 June 2019

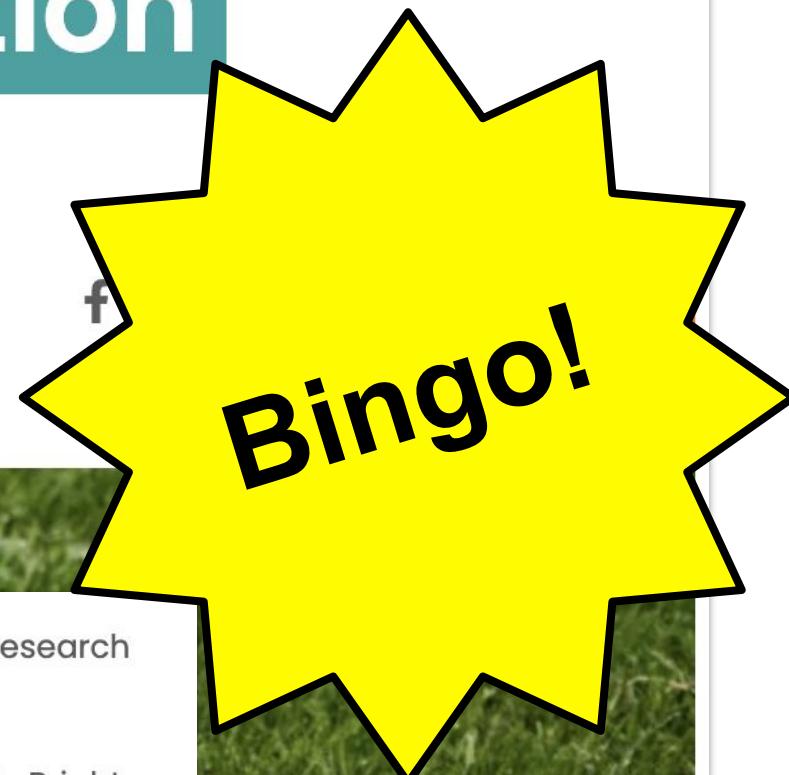
We can bring
this story up
to date



More than 700 council football pitches have been lost in Britain since 2010 research by GMB reveals.

The figures emerge ahead of GMB's Annual Congress, which begins place in Brighton on Sunday [June 9, 2019].

There were 710 less local authority owned or operated football pitches in the financial year 2017/18 than there were in 2009/10 – before the Conservative's austerity project began.



Let's just do it.

(10 mins)

I did all the work, you just send the
request (and enter the data)

You are going to send an FOI

1. Go to **WhatDoTheyKnow.com**
2. **Register** with the site (free)
3. **Find** the local authority you've been assigned
4. **Copy the FOI request on Moodle** and send it to that body
5. **Repeat** for other local authorities you've been assigned

Council football pitch fees and number

Under the Freedom of Information Act I would like to request the following information:

1) How many football pitches were the council responsible for at the end of March in each of the following financial years?

- 2022/23
- 2021/22
- 2020/21
- 2019/20
- 2018/19

Please split this up by pitch size if possible (5v5, 7v7, 9v9, 11v11) and type (grass, 3G, etc). If this is not possible please just provide the number of pitches. Please provide this information in spreadsheet format (CSV or XLS).

2) How much have local football teams had to pay for pitch fees across the following seasons. Please specify on what basis fees are paid (e.g. per season, every other weekend or per hour, or other frequency) and provide a breakdown if there are different classes of fees such as different qualities of pitches

- 2023/24 (current season)
- 2022/23
- 2021/22
- 2020/21
- 2019/20
- 2018/19

Please provide this information in spreadsheet format (CSV or XLS).

If this request requires any clarification please indicate this ASAP. If this request will takes longer than 18 hours to compile, please contact me so I can simplify the request.

Football Fees & Charges - Pitch Hire (per season / alternate weekly use)								
YE AR	Adult Class A (11v11)	Adult Class B (11v11)	Adult Class C (11v11)	Junior Class A (11v11)	Junior Class B (11v11)	Junior Class C (11v11)	Mini Soccer (5v5 / 7v7 / 9v9)	
20 17/ 18	£605.00	£487.00	£383.00	£322.00	£243.00	£189.00	£116.0 0	
20 18/ 19	£623.00	£502.00	£394.00	£332.00	£250.00	£195.00	£119.0 0	
20 19/ 20	£654.00	£527.00	£414.00	£349.00	£263.00	£205.00	£125.0 0	Note: 50% of this figure refunded to clubs
20 20/ 21	£674.00	£543.00	£426.00	£359.00	£271.00	£211.00	£129.0 0	Note: 50% of this figure refunded to the clubs
20 21/ 22	£694.00	£559.00	£439.00	£377.00	£285.00	£222.00	£135.0 0	https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/football_pitch_availability/response/1917446/attach/4/FOI%201579279.pdf?cookie_passthrough=1

Tip: ask for a breakdown, and specify CSV/XLSX format

- Ask for a **breakdown** wherever possible
 - so you can make your own calculations
- Ask for figures for a number of **different years** so you can see if things are better or worse. Specify **calendar** or **financial**.
- Specify **spreadsheet** format

Tip: plan data entry

Data entry for council FOI responses (pitches)

File Edit View Insert Format Data Tools Extensions Help

100% 123 Arial 10 B I A

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Your name	Local authority	Financial year	URL of response	Football pitches (NUMBER ONLY)	Pitch size (if given)	Flag
2	▼	▼	▼	▼		▼	▼
3	▼	▼	▼	▼		▼	▼
4	▼	▼	▼	▼		▼	▼
5	▼	▼	▼	▼		▼	▼
6	▼	▼	▼	▼		▼	▼
7	▼	▼	▼	▼		▼	▼
8	▼	▼	▼	▼		▼	▼
9	▼	▼	▼	▼		▼	▼
10	▼	▼	▼	▼		▼	▼
11	▼	▼	▼	▼		▼	▼
12	▼	▼	▼	▼		▼	▼
13	▼	▼	▼	▼		▼	▼
14	▼	▼	▼	▼		▼	▼

You will now have an
exclusive ‘**change**’ story

Pitches down/up by X% in _____

And everyone will be able to tell a
‘ranking’ story across the Midlands.

Identify interviewees while you wait

Part 1

**Who can you ask?
What can you ask for?**

A recap.

Freedom of Information (FOI)

- Any information held by **public bodies**
- Typically: **documents** and/or **data**
- You've **paid for this already**: it's your **right to know***

* See later!



For more information on all 61 indicators that RTI-rating.org use, visit: <https://www.rti-rating.org/methodology/>

Source: [Global RTI Rating by Access Info Europe at www.rti-rating.org \(accessed March 1st 2023\)](https://www.rti-rating.org/).



Map: Tarjei Leer-Salvesen • [Get the data](#) • [Embed](#)



The FOI Act is a Right to Information (RTI) law. You can send them in other countries to get information about your own (e.g. aid). Map: [Leer-Salvesen \(2023\) List of RTI laws](#)

What are “public bodies”?

- Emergency services (police, fire, ambulance etc)
- Education (universities, schools, colleges etc)
- Central government (DWP, DfID, DfE, etc)
- Local government (Birmingham Council etc)
- Health bodies (NHS England, CCGs, GPs)
- Regulators (Ofsted, Ofcom, Ofgem, CQC, ASA)
- Justice (courts, tribunals, probation, MoJ etc)
- And much much more!
- See

<https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/body/list/all>

Search over
238,946 requests
and
15,579 authorities

Birmingham City University

Formerly Birmingham Polytechnic and the University of Central England in Birmingham.

217 requests made. [Make your own request.](#)

Added on 5 March 2008.

Birmingham Conservatoire

Birmingham Conservatoire is part of Birmingham City University.

6 requests made. [Make your own request.](#)

Added on 20 July 2008.

University of Birmingham

109 requests made. [Make your own request.](#)

Added on 5 March 2008.



RESULTS ▾

LATEST ▾

VISIT ▾

SPORTS

TEAMS

CELEBRATE ▾

ABOUT ▾

MEMORABILIA



OF INFORMATION

MORE IN THIS SECTION ▾

Freedom of Information

The Birmingham Organising Committee for the 2022 Commonwealth Games Ltd (Birmingham 2022) is a non-departmental public body and as such is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA). This legislation provides for a general right of access to all types of "recorded" information held by Birmingham 2022, subject to a number of exemptions that are specified in the Act. Any person has the right to make a request for information under the Act regardless of who they are or where they live.



WhatDoTheyKnow

Birmingham Organising Committee for the 2022 Commonwealth Games Ltd[An executive non-departmental public body](#) and [a body working in sport](#)This is a non-departmental public body sponsored by the [Department for Digital, Media, Culture and Sport](#).<https://www.birmingham2022.com/corporate/freedom-of-information>https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/body/birmingham_organising_committee_for_the_2022_commonwealth_games_ltd<https://www.sportengland.org/corporate-information/freedom-of-information>

Commonwealth Games spending

Response by Birmingham City Council to [Mark Cardwell](#) on 22 July 2020.

Security during Commonwealth Games

Request sent to [West Midlands Police](#) by [Rhi Storer](#) on 16 June 2022.

Design and construction of the Commonwealth Games aquatic centre

Request sent to [Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council](#) by [Keir Williams](#) on 24 April 2018.

Security during Commonwealth Games

Request sent to [West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner](#) by [Rhi Storer](#) on 16 June 2022.

Security during Commonwealth Games

Request sent to [Home Office](#) by [Rhi Storer](#) on 16 June 2022.

Working For Clean Sport

UK Anti-Doping is an active participant in the global fight against doping in sport - and is the national body responsible for creating a UK-wide environment of confidence in clean sport. Whether that is in competition, training or spectating, we are working for everyone who loves sport. In the UK, we make sure sports bodies comply with the World Anti-Doping Code through implementation and management of the UK's National Anti-Doping Policy.



PDF -

UKAD Freedom of Information Publication Scheme

2021



Information Requests



2023



2022



2021



<https://www.ukad.org.uk/freedom-information-requests>
https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/body/uk_anti_doping

What kind of information can you ask for?

Statistics & datasets

Letters

Emails

Minutes from meetings

Memos

Reports

Drafts of documents

Notes taken during telephone conversations

Photos

Maps & diagrams

IN 2013, TASERS HAD BEEN USED ON

230 CHILDREN



BY 15 POLICE FORCES WHO RESPONDED
TO FOI REQUEST RE: TASER USE

THE YOUNGEST CHILDREN WERE **13**
26% WERE BETWEEN 13 and 15.

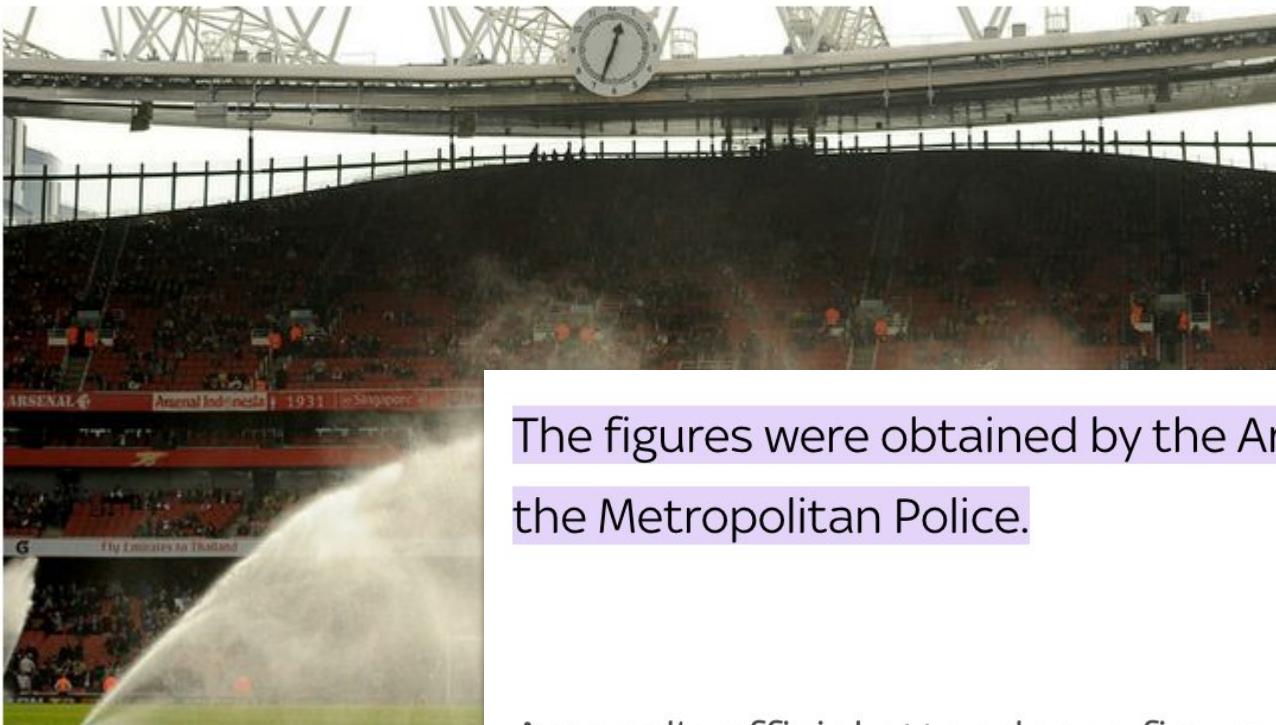
IN 7.5% OF CASES, THE WEAPONS WERE FIRED
OR THE "DRIVE STUN" TECHNIQUE USED

CAUSING PAIN BUT NOT INCAPACITY.

Asking for data

Request reveals 170,000 Arsenal fans did not show up at Emirates Stadium last season

By Kaveh Solhekol | Last Updated: 15/08/14 1:29pm



Emirates Stadium: More than 170,000

The figures were obtained by the Arsenal blog "A is for Arsenal" from the Metropolitan Police.



Arsenal's official attendance figures are based on tickets sold, instead of the number of people who turn up to the stadium.

Asking for data

Oakland PD's surveillance center's primary purpose is fighting protesters, not crime

Cory Doctorow at 6:58 am Wed, Dec 18, 2013

SHARE

TWEET

STUMBLE

COMMENTS



Asking for documents

An excellent investigative piece in the East Bay Express reviews internal communications and other public records from city staffers and Oakland PD bureaucrats discussing the Domain Awareness Center, a citywide surveillance hub that's currently under construction. Oakland is a city with a decades-long problem with gang violence and street violence, and the DAC -- which will consolidate video feeds blanketing the city and use software to ascribe the probability of guilt to people in the feeds -- is being sold as a solution to this serious problem.

But the internal documents tell another story. Though the City of Oakland's public-facing DAC message is all about crimefighting and anti-terror surveillance, the internal message is very different. City bureaucrats and law enforcement are excited about DAC because it will help them fight protests.

Analysis of the internal documents found almost no mentions of "crime," "rape," "killings" -- but city officials frequently and at length discussed the way the DAC could be used to



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Eyewear**

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& free returns



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Get found

Kemi Badenoch failed to raise Horizon scandal when she met Fujitsu at Davos

Exclusive: FoI request shows minister was warned by civil servants of 'risk' but focused instead on tech firm's investment in UK



Asking for
documents

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2024/feb/11/kemi-badenoch-failed-to-raise-horizon-scandal-when-she-met-fujitsu-at-davos>

Who *can't* you ask?

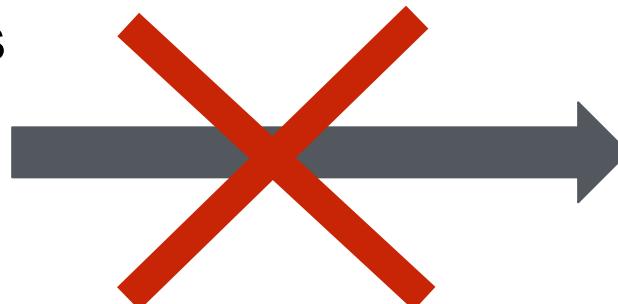
- You CAN'T FOI **charities** (but you can FOI the Charity Commission, or councils that fund them)
- You CAN'T FOI **businesses** (but you can ask public bodies who deal with them, inc. regulators)
- Or **Secret Intelligence Service**, the Government Communications Headquarters (**GCHQ**) or the **National Crime Agency**

Your turn. 5 minutes:

- Identify a **subject or issue** you're interested in (e.g. sport, fashion, environment, vaping, etc)
- Could you FOI an organisation to get stories in that field? **Which body?**

Tip: non-public bodies

Example: you can't FOI a train operator because it's a private company



— but you can FOI **Network Rail**, which is a public company, for data provided by the private co.



Commuter from Oxford gets data on Reading to Paddington delays

© 18 January



Tip: use the EIR (Environmental Impact Regulations)

- Private companies can be “public authorities” under the EIR if they are “entrusted by law with the performance of services in the public interest”
- E.g. E.ON (energy), Heathrow Airport Limited
- EIR request is the same as an FOI request but more powerful — it must relate to activities that “relate to or affect the environment”
- Here's a template!

When can they say “No”?

Exemptions:

- Cost: >18/24 hours (local/central)
- ‘Absolute’ vs ‘qualified’ exemptions
- Absolute exemptions include national security, or info already public
- Qualified exemptions based on judgement: **body must argue case** (includes commercial sensitivity)

Part 2

FOI story ideas

What do they know? What won't they tell?

Where to look for ideas:

- **Topical issues**: how widespread?
- **Policies**: what impact/are they needed?
- **Claims**: do the facts support them?
- **Curiosity**: has anyone ever asked (recently)?

Paul Bradshaw
@paulbradshaw

Great example of #FOI: Met Police “filed 286 requests to take down or review posts about drill music ... 255 of those had resulted in the removal of content. Over the same period, it had not made a single request to remove any other music genre”



theguardian.com

Instagram told to reinstate music video removed at request of Met police
Oversight board says removal of Secrets Not Safe by Chinx (OS) suggests policing of certain communities'

topical

mixmag

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NEWS

MET POLICE REQUESTS TO REMOVE DRILL CONTENT FROM TIKTOK UP 366% FROM 2020

New findings show that 64% of removal requests from the police were related to the music genre

BECKY BUCKLE | 13 OCTOBER 2023

Those Kingsnorth police injuries in full: six insect bites and a toothache

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2008/dec/15/kingsnorth-climate-change-environment-police>

- Kent force admits no officers hurt by protests
- £5.9m police operation 'colossal waste of money'



Checking a claim

Papers acquired by the Liberal Democrats via Freedom of Information requests show that the 1,500 officers policing the Kingsnorth climate camp near the Medway estuary in Kent, suffered only 12 reportable injuries during the protest during August.

HOME » JOURNALISTS » LAURA DONNELLY

Rising numbers of hospital patients so fed up they discharge themselves

Charities warn that new figures showing that more than 50,000 patients discharged themselves from hospital last year, paint an 'alarming' picture of a system which is failing to cope



Police disciplined for injuring suspects, fraud and accepting Facebook friend requests

07:41 24 September 2015 | Andrew Fitchett

Figures reveal how many lives Britain's firefighters have saved – and how many were killed on duty

00:13, 2 AUG 2015 | BY RICHARD SMITH

Research by the Fire Brigades Union says 105 people are rescued every day as the service deals with blazes, floods, road accidents and chemical spills



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ANIMAL CRUELTY

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CANCER

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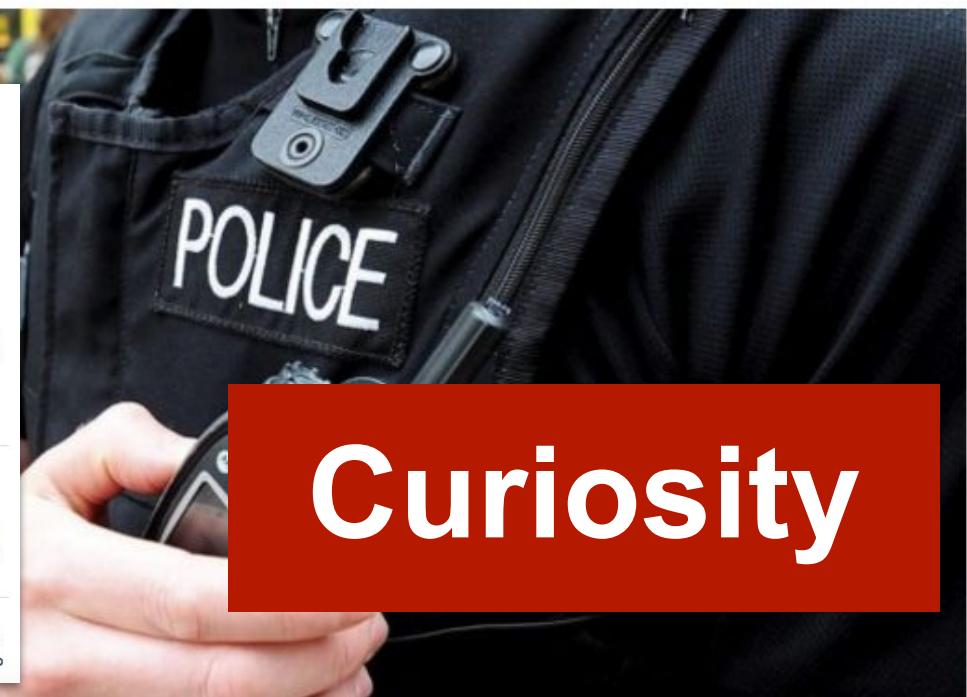


CANNABIS

Cannabis smokers to be let off with a warning to cut time spent on

Welsh parents owe thousands in school dinner debts

0 18 October 2018 | [Comments](#)





NOT A SINGLE COMPANY CHARGED WITH TAX EVASION UNDER STRONGER HMRC POWERS

HMRC has not charged a single company under landmark legislation passed six years ago to crack down on corporate tax evasion.

Critics say the data, released after Freedom of Information requests by the Bureau of Investigative Journalism and TaxWatch, suggests that HMRC is undermining its own deterrents against corporate tax evasion by failing to use its criminal enforcement powers.

Policy impact

England raw sewage taskforce has only met once in last year, FoI request reveals

Storm overflows group has been promoted by ministers as evidence they are taking issue seriously

● **UK politics live - latest updates**



Policy impact

Police in England and Wales dropping rape inquiries when victims refuse to hand in phones

Investigation finds cases being closed when complainants refuse 'digital strip search'

Digital processing notices, which complainants are asked to sign, were rolled out across police forces in England and Wales from April 2019. The forms are used to notify victims of crime, most commonly victims of sexual offences, that police will download data from their phones.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/jun/08/england-raw-sewage-taskforce-met-once-in-last-year-storm-overflows>

[Source](#)

Police failed to record race of nearly two-thirds of people referred to Prevent

Human rights groups say lack of data hinders assessment of whether counter-extremism scheme is discriminatory



Police in [England](#) and Wales have failed to record the racial identity of nearly two-thirds of people referred to the Prevent counter-extremism programme, despite questions over whether it discriminates against minority ethnic groups.

The National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) said details on the race or ethnicity of 33,116 people referred to the scheme over eight years could not be accessed. [Government figures](#) show that there were 51,204 Prevent referrals from April 2015 to April 2023.

Response reveals lack of data

Scale



Bad/open



Look for example stories to give you ideas to replicate/adapt

- Google Alerts: “freedom of information” in Google News
- FOI Friday
- My ‘FOleg’ bookmarks
- WhatDoTheyKnow.com



Gemma Abbott
@gem_abbott

...

https://twitter.com/gem_abbott/status/1580481732129628161?

Remember when the Met Police Federation told us 74 police officers were injured at Notting Hill Carnival?

I thought it might be worth asking the Met via FOI if that was true &, if so, what injuries had occurred

They replied today. Turns out the numbers weren't quite right...



Metropolitan Police Federation
@MPFed

Update: 74 Metropolitan Police officers were injured across the two days of the Notting Hill Carnival. These are people's sons and daughters. These are children's

Replicating an example



Gemma Abbott @gem_abbott · 6h

Replies to [@gem_abbott](#)

The Met told me there was some “double counting” & in fact 60 officers recorded injuries on the corporate injury recording system...

5

99

1,134



Gemma Abbott @gem_abbott · 6h

27 were “physically assaulted” resulting in “minor non-reportable” injuries

13 suffered “lifting and handling injuries”

1 hurt their back from “carrying or wearing officer safety equipment”

3 had a slip, trip or fall...

5

178

1,824



Gemma Abbott @gem_abbott · 6h

5 were “struck by an object” and 4 were “struck against”

2 were struck by moving vehicles, resulting in “minor, non-reportable injuries”

4 had “another kind of accident”

1 had “exposure to substance” that resulted in a bruise on their hand...

Look at examples of requests to replicate/adapt

- Matt Burgess's [FOI template](#)
- [Search requests](#) on [WhatDoTheyKnow](#) —
not all will be good! Check what response the request got. How successful was it and why? Also [these examples](#)
- **Disclosure logs** where organisations publish requests and responses



disclosure log police



Images

News

Videos

West midlands

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Finance

About 145,000,000 results (0.38 seconds)

As part of our Publication Scheme, we are dedicated to delivering an open and transparent service and commit to publishing Freedom of Information (FOI) requests and our responses to them.



Freedom of Information - West Midlands Police

<https://foi.west-midlands.police.uk> › disclosure-log

⋮

[Disclosure Log - Freedom of Information - West Midlands Police](#)



disclosure log sport

About 274,000,000 results (0.73 seconds)

Our disclosure log has a list of the requests we've received and a summary of the outcome, and is updated on a quarterly basis.



Sport England

<https://www.sportengland.org> › corporate-information

⋮

[Freedom of information | Sport England](#)

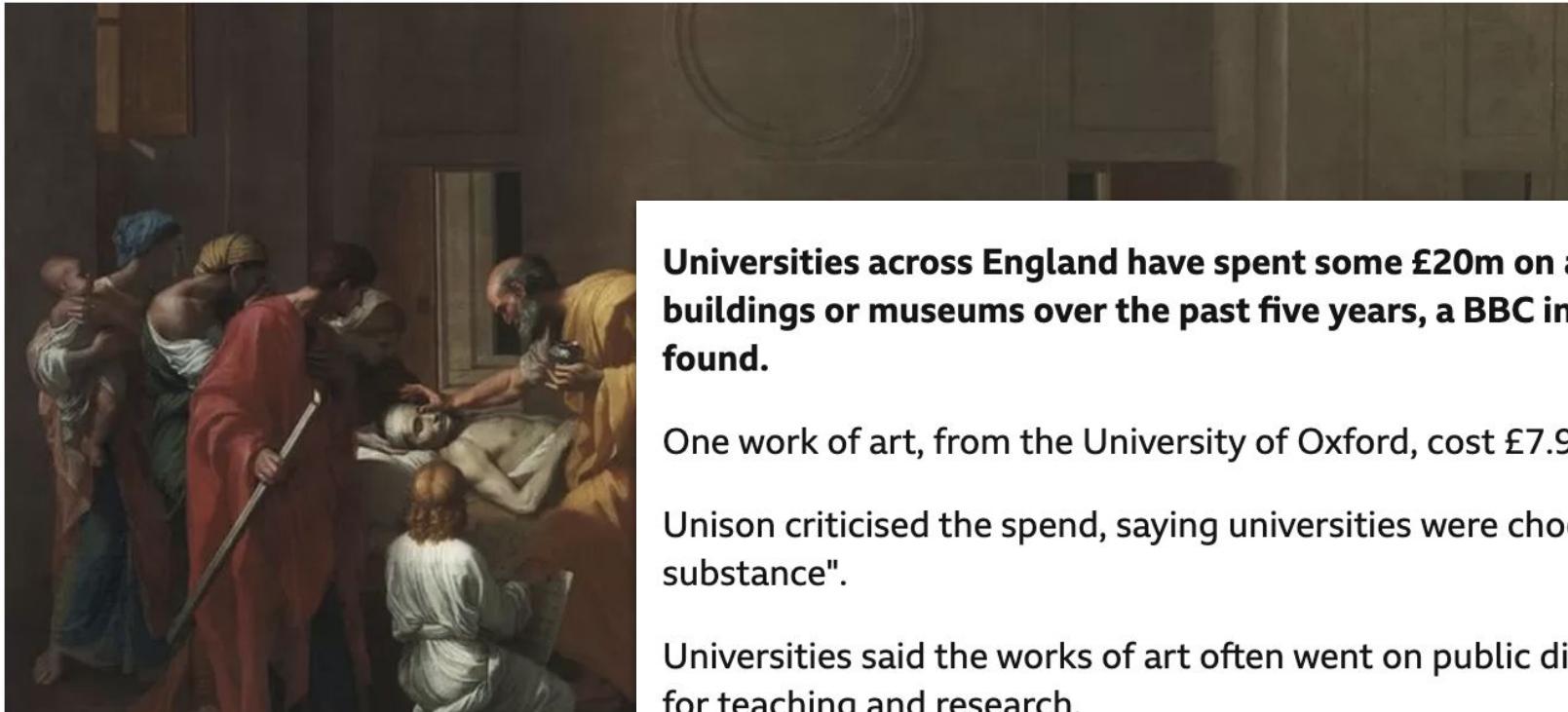
Part 3

Making a request

What do they know? What won't they tell?

Universities in England spend £20m on art work

🕒 3 December 2015



Universities across England have spent some £20m on art to furnish their buildings or museums over the past five years, a BBC investigation has found.

One work of art, from the University of Oxford, cost £7.9m.

Unison criticised the spend, saying universities were choosing "style over substance".

Universities said the works of art often went on public display and were used for teaching and research.

A Freedom of Information request by the BBC collated the information for 2010-2015.

Original FOI request

This was sent to each university FOI officer in England.

Please treat this email as a request under the Freedom of Information Act.

1. How much money has been spent on works of art for university buildings each year from 2010-2015?
2. What was the most expensive work of art purchased for university buildings from 2010-2015? Who was the author of this work of art and how much did it cost?

The FOI request...

1. As of the 1st January, in each of the subsequently named years, how many sex establishments had an active licence within your local authority area? For clarity I seek information on licenced sex establishments as defined by Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982, and amended by the Policing and Crime Act 2009. Please provide data for each of the individual calendar years 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018.
2. In each of the individual calendar years 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017, how many applications did your authority receive for new licenced sex establishments, as defined by Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982, and amended by the Policing and Crime Act 2009? Please note I seek information regarding applications for new licences and not the number of sex establishment licences where an application for renewal was made.
3. As of the 1st January 2018, has your authority adopted Section 27 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009 which relates to the regulation of “sex establishments” under Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982?
4. In relation to your local authority’s licensing policy, has the authority set a limit for the number of sexual establishment licences that are permitted to be issued within your local authority area? If yes, as of the 1st January 2018 what was the total number of sexual entertainment licences that were allowed to be issued?

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-43043842>

<https://github.com/BBC-Data-Unit/sex-shops-drop/blob/master/foirequest.md>

Sex shops and lap dancing clubs in England fall by third

⌚ 23 February 2018



Lap dancing clubs, sex shops and sex cinemas numbers in England have fallen by a third in the past five years.

Responses to a Freedom of Information request show sex establishment licences issued by councils dropped from 386 in 2013 to 256 in 2018.

A rise in internet pornography and changes in social attitudes are blamed.

One sex shop owner claims the internet has "killed" his business while the Women's Equality Party said more needs to be done to change attitudes.

'Demand for products'

The BBC England Data Unit sent Freedom of Information requests to all local councils responsible for issuing sex establishment licences with 281 out of 327 responding to how many they had issued.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-43043842>

<https://github.com/BBC-Data-Unit/sex-shops-drop/blob/master/foirequest.md>

How not to do it:

Dear Department for Education,

Please could you provide the statistics on how many children under the age of 10 were reported missing in the UK in 2017, 2018 and 2019?

The Department does not collect information on the number of children reported missing across the UK. The National Crime Agency collects and publishes data on missing persons. They can be contacted via [1][[email address](#)].

How not to do it:

Dear Birmingham City Council,

I would like to know the breakdown of school exclusion by ethnicity for secondary pupils up to and including 2017

Yours faithfully,

Ms Jennifer Campbell

Unfortunately, this request is too imprecise to allow us to act on it, and accordingly, we are unable to process your request.

We would be obliged if you could please confirm if your request can be rephrased to allow us to locate the information that you are seeking.

BCC can only provide permanent exclusion data as fixed term data has reliability issues at the moment and what time period are you looking at – it just says “up to and including 2017”? Do you just want the total number of exclusions each year split into ethnicity?

Key points:

- FOI can give you **exclusive** stories and make you stand out in the jobs market
- Can only be sent to **public bodies** — but think creatively!
- It will take 4 weeks+ so make sure your idea will still be newsworthy then — and save problems later with **good prep...**

Directed study

1. **Reading:** Burgess, Matt (2015)
Freedom of Information [Chapter 6](#)
2. **Reverse engineer** at least one story
that used FOI (see next slides) and
share what you see on [this week's](#)
[forum on Moodle](#)
3. Then generate ideas for another FOI to
discuss next week
4. **Reading:** [Data Journalism Heist](#)

Here are some more to adapt

- Black remand prisoners held 70% longer than white counterparts in England and Wales
- Upmarket tennis and golf clubs among recipients of major sports grants
- UK universities fine students £170,000 for Covid rule breaches
- DWP admits investigating 60 benefit-related deaths since 2012
- UK trained military of 15 countries with poor human rights records (MOD)
- REVEALED: DRUG SHAME IN OUR COMMUNITIES
- Revealed: no penalties issued under 'useless' English farm pollution laws
- No male teachers at 11 Birmingham schools

'Reverse engineer'?

- How was FOI used?
- What bodies did they ask?
- What questions do you think they asked?
- What could have been better?
- How can you use all that knowledge?
- Share in [the forum on Moodle](#)



Getting the most from FOI



Telling stories with FOI data

<https://youtu.be/gw8hvek3qSg>
<https://youtu.be/SySoEWuZBWM>

More examples!

Reverse engineer these to get ideas

How students use FOI to investigate their universities

After the government's proposal to exempt universities from the Freedom of Information Act, students highlight how it's used to hold those in power to account



University of Sussex to offer apology and compensation to student protesters

Ombudsman recommends the university apologise to students and pay them compensation after they were suspended for their role in a protest



A freedom of information request filed by students in Sussex reveals that the university has spent £55,000 on legal fees relating to the disciplinary hearing.

The students, known along with one other suspended student as the Sussex five



Five attacks by prisoners every day in London

BENEDICT MOORE-BRIDGER



Published: 04 October 2013

More than five attacks by prisoners take place on wardens and fellow inmates every day in London, the Standard can reveal.

Nearly 4,000 attacks have taken place in jails in the past two years, with 80 prison staff assaulted at work, figures show.

The shocking statistics, revealed in a Freedom of Information request, show there were more than 14,000 assaults on inmates and prison staff in the UK last year, with many of the most violent



Related Articles

[Paedophile's sentence reviewed](#)

[Case must be made for EU: Clegg](#)

[HMP Oakwood condemned by inspectors](#)

Suggested Topics

UK

Great Britain

London

Proposed university FOI changes under fire

Universities to be excluded from Freedom of Information requests under planned changes

England | Regions | Oxford

Oxford University criticised for gender gap among top earners

Security guards to use tiny cameras on university campus

Freedom of Information requests are frequently used by both student newspapers and the national press. In 2014, for example, Varsity used records released under a Freedom of Information request to expose the scale of employment below the living wage in the university, finding that 1,113 college and university staff were receiving wages of less than £7.65 an hour.

Earlier this year, Freedom of Information requests by the University and College Union (UCU) were used to outline how much Vice-Chancellors were paid. The UCU found that Professor Leszek Borysiewicz was the nineteenth highest-earning Vice-Chancellor in the country.

Third of foster children are separated from siblings

By Anna Collinson
Newsbeat reporter

© 8 September 2014 | Front Page



Imagine being told you could no longer live with your brother or sister.

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NHS flushes £25m down the toilet: Saving on loo rolls would pay for 700 nurses

Met Police has spent £33.5m investigating journalists, figures show

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05 January 2015

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Local councils now employ at least 3,400 comms staff - more than double the total for central government

William Turvill

10 April 2015

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Hundreds in zero-hours council jobs in the West

By Ian Parker

BBC News, Bristol



More than 700 council workers in the West are on zero-hours deals

Councils in the West have been criticised for employing hundreds of staff on zero-hours contracts.

Related Stories

School crime reports topped 30,000 in 2014

By Nicola Beckford

Reporter, BBC Victoria Derbyshire programme

⌚ 24 September 2015 | Education & Family



Police officers hurt in series of bizarre accidents at work win almost £600,000 in payouts in just 12 months

Aug 18, 2014 06:00 By Nick McCarthy

West Midlands Police have to pay out for a host of injuries including a fall off a faulty chair, dog bites and one who was hit by a car park barrier



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Birmingham pub bombings: Aston Villa refuse to hold minute's silence in memory of the dead »

Hundreds of 'mentally ill' children put behind bars because 'there's nowhere else to take them'

Jan 27, 2014 12:35 | By Chris Bradley

More than 1,000 children suspected of being mentally ill have been locked up in police cells instead of being assessed by doctors

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Getty

Locked up: 'Mentally ill' children have been locked up in police cells

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Student Loans Company overcharges 78,000 graduates

There has been a 10pc annual increase in overpayments of student loans, with the average graduate £580 out of pocket



More Welsh Ambulance Service staff off with stress

By Abigail Neal

BBC News



The ambulance service has regularly failed to meet key response targets

A growing number of ambulance service staff are going off sick due to stress, BBC Wales has learned.

Their sickness rate of 7.53% is the highest in the Welsh NHS and almost double that of the police which is 4%.

Related Stories

[Health board rejects NHS shake-up](#)

NHS: Lawyers claim almost a THIRD of cash paid in compensation claims each year

Aug 02, 2014 22:40 | By Phil Cardy

Shocking new data obtained by the Sunday Mirror reveals that out of the £1.19 billion paid in 2013-14, more than £350 million went on legal fees

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Lawyers fees: Over a third of a billion pounds went from the NHS to lawyers last year

PA



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Improve these suggestions



LOTTERY WINNERS

Factory worker who won lottery jackpot finally returns home from holiday - after eight MONTHS



CHEATING

Mother-of-eight raising

More than 1,100 DWP staff warned over prying on benefits records

FOI request reveals extent of privacy breaches



Three suspended for drug thefts in Merseyside hospitals over last three years

Nov 16, 2014 16:00

By Isabelle Fraser





Anthony Kelly

Thousands of children investigated over online bullying

By: Information Daily Staff Writer

Published: Thursday, May 29, 2014 - 08:20 GMT

[Jump to Comments](#)

A Sky News Freedom of Information Request has exposed a shocking and ever-growing culture of abuse which is terrorising victims online.

1,200 children and almost 20,000 adults have been charged with a criminal offence, received a caution, been fined or been investigated over pervasive online abuse, a Sky News investigation has exposed.

The figures, up sharply by 5 per cent since 2011, are missing the contributions of 18 police forces, indicating that the true scale of the problem may be much larger.

Of the children cautioned, four were just 10 years old at the time of the incident and one was 9. All of the people questioned were investigated under Section 127 of the 2003 Communications Act, which concerns abuse over social media, text messaging or phone calls.



Anthony Kelly

Thousands of children investigated over online bullying

By: Information Daily Staff Writer

Published: Thursday, May 29, 2014 - 08:20 GMT

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Of the children cautioned, four were just 10 years old at the time of the incident and one was 9. All of the people questioned were investigated under Section 127 of the 2003 Communications Act, which concerns abuse over social media, text messaging or phone calls.



Eighteen police forces were unable to provide data on online abuse, preventing a fuller picture being established.

Nuisance

But 34 forces around the country were able to disclose the number of investigations launched under Section 127 of the 2003 Communications Act.

The law covers abuse which takes place on social media, via text messaging or nuisance phone calls.

Concerns raised last year about the volume of investigations led to new guidance being issued, raising the threshold for action.

Hertfordshire Police recorded the highest number of investigations last year, looking into 1,042 cases - up from 291 in 2011.

Over three years, the Metropolitan Police had the highest figure, investigating 2,099 incidents.

Thousands of

By: Information Daily S
Published: Thursday, N

A Sky News Freedom terrorising victims on

1,200 children and almi
investigated over perva

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of the problem may be r

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