

**WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND HOME AFFAIRS
BY DEPUTY K.M. WILSON OF ST. CLEMENT
QUESTION SUBMITTED ON MONDAY 19th MAY 2025
ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON TUESDAY 27th MAY 2025**

Question

“Will the Minister provide the data collected in relation to knife crime, arson, and the illegal use of firearms for each of the last 3 years, and the number of related prosecutions and sentences for such crimes; and will she further advise –

- (a) whether there have been any changes to policy further to recent reporting in the local press on knife incidents in the community;
- (b) what progress has been made on community safety initiatives and how these initiatives are measured and monitored;
- (c) whether there have been any changes to policy or resources in response to increases in activity in those seeking to import quantities of illegal drugs, substances or weapons into the Island; and
- (d) whether her department is taking any steps to address low-level fire setting in some communities, and if not, why not?”

Answer

Knife Crime

Knife crime, as defined here, broadly relates to two kinds of behaviour. The first relates to people owning or possessing knives when doing so is illegal. This may be because their ownership is specifically banned, such as certain (de facto or ‘made’) offensive weapons, or because they are illegal in certain contexts, mainly being possessed in public without good reason. These are so-called State or Rex crimes and do not involve a victim. The second behaviour relates to the use of a knife in the commission of another offence, so-called ‘knife-involved offences’. Typically, this relates to violence or threats against the person, larceny, break and entry or malicious damage.

In 2024, knife crimes increased to 51 in comparison with previous years. This increase was due to more common assaults, which involved threats with a knife, being recorded. More offences were recorded from corresponding incidents in line with a continuous effort to improve crime recording standards in line with Home Office crime recording.

| Year | Number of Recorded Offences | Number of Charges or PHE | Sanctions |
|------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| 2025 | 8 | - | - |
| 2024 | 51 | 5 *3 offences are still live | 1 Probation Order 1 Imprisonment |
| 2023 | 32 | 7 *1 offence still live | 2 Probation Orders 2 Imprisonment 1 Fine 1 Community Service |
| 2022 | 41 | 11 | 3 Probation Orders |

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|--|--|--|---|
| | | | 3 Imprisonment 1 Caution 1 Binding Over Order |
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Arson

Recorded Fire Service Law (statutory arson) offences increased in 2024 to 45. This was primarily due to young people setting fires in various locations including public toilets.

| Year | Number of Recorded Offences | Number of Charges or PHE | Sanctions |
|------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| 2025 | 10 | - | - |
| 2024 | 45 | 3 | 1 Probation Order 1 Binding Over Order 1 Written Caution |
| 2023 | 18 | 1 | 1 Imprisonment |
| 2022 | 19 | 3 | 2 Treatment Orders 1 Written Caution |

Illegal Use of Firearms

The crimes included in this category are:

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| Art 2(1)(a) Firearms Law 2000 -Possess, purchase or acquire a firearm without certificate- |
| Article 2(1)(a) - Firearms Law 2000 -Possess, purchase or acquire a firearm without certificate- |
| Article 2(1)(c) - Firearms (Jersey) Law 2000 - Contravenes or fails to comply with any condition subject to which a firearm certificate is held by the person |
| Possess, purchase or acquire a firearm without certificate-Art 2(1)(a) Firearms Law 2000 |
| Possess, purchase or acquire ammo without certificate-Art 2(1)(b) Firearms Law 2000 |

| Year | Number of Recorded Offences | Number of Charges or PHE | Sanctions |
|------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| 2025 | 1 | 1 | - |
| 2024 | 0 | - | - |
| 2023 | 1 | 1 | 1 Fine |
| 2022 | 3 | 3 | 2 Imprisonment 1 Binding Over Order |

- (a) whether there have been any changes to policy further to recent reporting in the local press on knife incidents in the community;**

There have not been any changes in policy within the areas the Minister for Justice and Home Affairs is responsible for in response to recent media reporting on knife incidents.

As outlined above, knife incidents are dealt with in accordance with the relevant legislation.

- (b) what progress has been made on community safety initiatives and how these initiatives are measured and monitored;**

Work through the BASC framework is continuing to develop with several key projects now in progress. Work continues to establish BASC across Government as a 'coordinating' function enabling horizon scanning regarding community safety. This is progressing well.

The BASC Education programme continues with very positive feedback from both teachers and students. To date, in this academic year, the team have delivered to 7 schools to nearly 900 students with another 5 schools booked before the end of the summer term. This means that by the end of the academic school year, every Year 8 student in education will have taken part in the day. This includes Mont A 'Labbe and La Passerelle who have worked with the team to co-design a bespoke programme to meet specific needs of their students.

A BASC data partnership has been established under the BASC Framework, which will support measuring and monitoring of outcomes.

(c) whether there have been any changes to policy or resources in response to increases in activity in those seeking to import quantities of illegal drugs, substances or weapons into the Island; and

The Customs and Immigration Service covers a multitude of functions, and as such will direct resources to areas of demand. Whilst there has been no change in policy or increase in resources, the Service deploys staff accordingly to deal with any increased risk of the attempted importation of prohibited or restricted goods, including illegal drugs and weapons.

(d) whether her department is taking any steps to address low-level fire setting in some communities, and if not, why not?"

The number of deliberate Fire Setting incidents identified as being caused by youths aged 10-17 years.

- a. 2022; 10 fires (all secondary fires)
- b. 2023; 14 fires (5 primary fires, 9 secondary fires)
- c. 2024; 22 fires (5 primary fires, 17 secondary fires)
- d. 2025 (to date); 7 fires (1 primary fire, 6 secondary fires).

The States of Jersey Fire and Rescue Service takes a proactive and preventative approach to this risk, delivering Fire Setting and Arson training and education to all primary school year 4 classes, and secondary school year 8 classes, which highlights the dangers, risks and impacts associated with Fire Setting and Arson. The focus of this input is to protect the children and to reduce the number of instances of Fire Setting and Arson related anti-social behaviour in their communities. The education is delivered by members of the Fire Safety department and operationally based firefighters.

When children and young people are identified as needing support they can be referred to the service for an intervention. Several members of the States of Jersey Fire and Rescue Service are trained in delivering Fire Setting intervention techniques. We provide support to anyone requesting assistance related to Fire Setting / Arson; this is usually requested by the Police or Children's Services but can be from family members or schools. In the last three years, four children have received support from members of the States of Jersey Fire and Rescue Service in direct relation to Fire Setting. The number of children referred to the Fire and Rescue Service is low as it is often difficult to identify who is responsible for causing a primary or secondary fire.

Note: A primary fire is a fire that generally involves a risk to life, property, or requires a significant response whereas secondary fires are generally smaller fires that don't involve people or property, like refuse, grassland fires (except over a certain size, when they become primary fires), derelict properties or vehicles that are off the road and not in use.