Freedom of Information request ref 01/FOI/26/4099
We received your request on the 18/03/2026.

Request

You asked us:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, please provide the following information for the last three full calendar years (2023, 2024, 2025):

Please break all of the following down by year (2023, 2024, 2025):

The number of recorded offences involving the use of an acid or other corrosive substance against a person.
1a) Where held, the number of those offences that resulted in a sentence.
1b) Where held, the number of those offences in which no custodial sentence was imposed.
1c) Where held, the number of those offences in which no suspect was identified.

We have handled your request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

Our response:

Question 1

A search was conducted on the Force records management system, Niche, for crimes recorded between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2025. A keyword search included %acid%, %corrosive%, %alkali%, %drain cleaner%, %bleach%, %sulphuric%, %ammonia% or %caustic% (% being a wildcard).
A manual review of the records was then conducted by reading the MO comments indicating the use of an acid against a person or their clothing.

This produced 19 results:

I. 4 crimes were recorded in the calendar year 2023
II. 7 crimes were recorded in the calendar year 2024
III. 8 crimes were recorded in the calendar year 2025

Question 1a) 1b) and 1c)

Please see the below table:

Outcome (correct as of 18/03/2026)	Count Crimes
1: Charged	2
14: Victim declines/unable to support action to identify offender	2
15: CPS - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties	3
15: Police - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties	1
16: Victim declines/withdraws support - named suspect identified	2
17: Suspect identified but prosecution time limit expired	1
18: Investigation complete no suspect identified	8
Total	**19**

Please note:

These figures will not include verbal threats only, possession of corrosive substance without lawful excuse or use of harmless liquid where the victim did not believe it was acid etc at the time of the offence.

One arrest in 2023 lead to the suspect being charged and later convicted for Affray. The suspect received a sentence of 16 months imprisonment and a victim surcharge of £187.

One arrest was proceeded with and at court they were found Not Guilty, therefore did not receive a custodial sentence. All other crimes listed are unsolved (as of 18th March 2026).