



Response Date:16/05/2025

2025/505 - Catapults and slingshots

In response to your recent request for information regarding;

- 1. From 2019 to the most recent data available, how many crimes were logged by your police force where a slingshot was recorded as being an element in the offence? Please provide a yearly breakdown in a table (Note: I would hope that this could be achieved by a computer search on the MO of crimes for the word "slingshot" or synonyms like "catapult")**
- 2. Please provide me with a table showing a breakdown of the crimes from Question 1 that are 'linked' to slingshot/s by its mention in the MO for 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 by offence subgroup as per the Home Office counting rules.**

Search criteria; Occurrence Summary matches "Slingshot" or "Catapult" OR Weapon used Subtype matches "Slingshot" or "Catapult".
The results have been manually checked to ensure relevance to your request.

Calendar Year	Offence HO Group1	HO Code	HO Description	Weapon used subtype	Summary
2019	10. Arson & Criminal Damage	149/00B	Other criminal damage to a building - business and community (Under £5000.00 damage)	;Catapult;	Caller reporting the front window of the store smashed by an unidentified male with a catapult.
2020	10. Arson & Criminal Damage	149/00C	Other criminal damage to a vehicle (Under £5000.00 damage)		UNKNOWN OFFENDER.S HAVE CAUSED DAMAGE TO REAR SCREEN WITH WHAT THE IP BELIEVES IS TO BE A CATAPULT ..
2020	01. VAP	105/01	Common assault and battery (Violence without injury)	;Catapult;	IP reporting that they have been struck by a air rifle pellet fired by the suspect from out of their window.

2020	01. VAP	105/01	Common assault and battery (Violence without injury)		Unknown offender has fired two stones at the IP using a catapult,
2020	01. VAP	105/01	Common assault and battery (Violence without injury)		Unknown offender has fired two stones at the witness using a catapult,
2020	11. Drug Offences	092/69	Possession of unspecified controlled drug		... Within the vehicle, Officers found a quantity of what is thought to be drugs wrapped in bags along with a catapult
2020	12. Possession of Weapons	008/26	Having an article with a blade or point in a public place		...Officers attended and found the male in possession of a a lock knife, slingshot and what appears to be a broken crossbow.
2020	01. VAP	008/06A	Sec 47. Assault occasioning actual bodily harm		KNOWN OFFENDERS HAVE ASSAULTED I.P. BY FIRING BALLBEARINGS AT HIM FROM A SLINGSHOT, THEN GRABBING HIM BY HIS THROAT AND CHOKING HIM,
2021	10. Arson & Criminal Damage	149/00C	Other criminal damage to a vehicle (Under £5000.00 damage)		Caller has had his car window smashed by a neighbours catapult
2021	12. Possession of Weapons	008/26	Having an article with a blade or point in a public place		Offender when searched was found to be in possession of a kitchen knife, a folding lock knife, a catapult and a claw hammer.
2021	12. Possession of Weapons	008/11	Possession of offensive weapon without lawful authority or reasonable excuse		Third party report of a number of youth trying car doors. Officers attended and located one male Suspect, he was searched and found to be in possession of an offensive weapon, namely a slingshot and metal ball bearings which were seized.
2020	01. VAP	105/01	Common assault and battery (Violence without injury)		KNOWN OFFENDERS HAVE ASSAULTED I.P. BY FIRING BALLBEARINGS AT HIM FROM A SLINGSHOT.
2021	10. Arson & Criminal Damage	149/00C	Other criminal damage to a vehicle (Under £5000.00 damage)	;Catapult;Items brought by offender;	KNOWN OFFENDER HAS SMASHED THE DRIVER AND PASSENGER SIDE WINDOWS OF IP'S VEHICLE, WHILST PARKED ON THE ROAD.
2021	10. Arson & Criminal Damage	149/00A	Other criminal damage to a residence (Under £5000.00 damage)		UNKNOWN YOUTHS HAVE BEEN AT LOCATION AND CAPTURED ON CCTV EITHER USING A BB GUN OR A CATAPULT TO CAUSE DAMAGE TO 2 WINDOWS OF COUNCIL BUILDING

2021	01. VAP	008/06A	Sec 47. Assault occasioning actual bodily harm	;Catapult;	Caller reporting that he has been hit by a 10mm ball bearing that had been fired from a catapult. It also hit the gardener who was standing next to the caller.
2021	01. VAP	008/06A	Sec 47. Assault occasioning actual bodily harm	;Catapult;	This is an additional report - 2 seperate IP's that have been hit by a ball bearing.
2021	10. Arson & Criminal Damage	149/00C	Other criminal damage to a vehicle (Under £5000.00 damage)		Youths have used a slingshot and fired stones at the victim's vehicle causing damage to it.
2022	13. Public Order Offences	125/09	Causing intentional harassment, alarm or distress (Sec 4A)		Officers have attended and have been confronted with male holding a samourai sword in the doorway ... he has then been searched and found to be in possession of a screwdriver, catapult...
2022	01. VAP	195/94	Harassment		During the dates provided unknown persons have been throwing/ catapulting stones into the location whenever the victim attends the location.
2022	01. VAP	105/01	Common assault and battery (Violence without injury)		...has been hit by a stone thrown by a sling/catapulted from a neighbouring property. Vehicles have also been hit.
2022	06. Theft	046/00	Theft from shops and stalls.		3x Youths have entered the store and one has selected a catapult valued £11 and thrown it out the window. Youths left
2022	10. Arson & Criminal Damage	149/00C	Other criminal damage to a vehicle (Under £5000.00 damage)		CALLER WAS DRIVING DOWN THE A55 WESTBOUND WHEN SOMETHING HAS SMASHED HIS WINDSCREEN. HE BELIEVES YOUTHS HAVE USED SOMEKIND OF CATAPULT TO LAUNCH THINGS AT VEHICLES.
2022	01. VAP	008/06A	Sec 47. Assault occasioning actual bodily harm		... HE THEN USED A HANDHELD CATAPULT TO FIRE A LEAD SHOT WHICH HIT HER LEFT UPPER THIGH CAUSING REDDENING.
2022	12. Possession of Weapons	197/21	Possession of an offensive weapon in a private place; Criminal Justice Act 1988 Sec 141 (1A)	;Other;	Officers have attended and have been confronted with male holding a samourai sword in the doorway ... he has then been searched and found to be in possession of a screwdriver, catapult ...
2022	10. Arson & Criminal Damage	149/00C	Other criminal damage to a vehicle (Under £5000.00 damage)		IP driving ... when he heard a bang, when he checked his car the next day he believes it has been hit using a catapult causing a big round dent in the rear passenger door.

2023	10. Arson & Criminal Damage	149/00A	Other criminal damage to a residence (Under £5000.00 damage)	;Catapult;	Known youth firing a catapult at the location which has caused damage to a window.
2023	10. Arson & Criminal Damage	149/00A	Other criminal damage to a residence (Under £5000.00 damage)	;Air weapon;	Unknown suspect(s) have caused damage to a window at the location, possibly with a catapult or BB gun.
2023	10. Arson & Criminal Damage	149/00A	Other criminal damage to a residence (Under £5000.00 damage)		Informant has stated that two males were throwing stones and using a catapult at his window and he has shouted at them. ...
2023	12. Possession of Weapons	008/11	Possession of offensive weapon without lawful authority or reasonable excuse		DURING POLICE SEARCH KNOWN OFFENDER WAS FOUND TO BE IN POSSESSION OF A SLINGSHOT AND A CLEAR BAG CONTAINING ROUND METAL PELLETS WHICH WERE SEIZED.
2023	10. Arson & Criminal Damage	149/00A	Other criminal damage to a residence (Under £5000.00 damage)		Caller reporting her neighbour has broken the back door window using a catapult. ...
2023	10. Arson & Criminal Damage	149/00A	Other criminal damage to a residence (Under £5000.00 damage)		Third hand report of damage being caused to a neighbour's bathroom window. A known youth was seen using a homemade catapult to cause damage.
2023	01. VAP	008/06A	Sec 47. Assault occasioning actual bodily harm		.. Suspect has been firing stones via slingshot, causing the IP to sustain injuries.
2023	10. Arson & Criminal Damage	149/00A	Other criminal damage to a residence (Under £5000.00 damage)		IP reporting that someone has smashed his window in last night. IP heard a loud bang which he believes something was fired from a catapult of some sort due to there now being a hole in the window.
2024	01. VAP	195/94	Harassment		KNOWN OFFENDER HAS REPEATEDLY CAUSED DAMAGE TO I.P'S VEHICLE BY SMASHING WINDOWS USING BALLBEARINGS FIRED FROM A SLINGSHOT. CCTV AVAILABLE.
2024	01. VAP	105/01	Common assault and battery (Violence without injury)		... An unknown person has used what the victim believes to have been a catapult to fire a stone at high velocity through the open window narrowly missing the victim and striking the inside of the closed passenger window.

2024	10. Arson & Criminal Damage	149/00C	Other criminal damage to a vehicle (Under £5000.00 damage)		... An unknown person has used what the victim believes to have been a catapult to fire a stone at high velocity through the open window narrowly missing the victim and striking the inside of the closed passenger window. ...
2024	10. Arson & Criminal Damage	149/00A	Other criminal damage to a residence (Under £5000.00 damage)		IP reporting that someone has just shot her window and smashed it by using a metal ball bearing, most likely from a slingshot
2024	10. Arson & Criminal Damage	149/00A	Other criminal damage to a residence (Under £5000.00 damage)		IP reporting her window has been broken and it seemed like a catapult or BB gun was used....
2024	01. VAP	195/94	Harassment		IP reporting a number of youths have threatened her with a catapult. ...
2024	12. Possession of Weapons	008/11	Possession of offensive weapon without lawful authority or reasonable excuse		Suspect has been found in possession of a slingshot catapult and a number of solid metal ball bearings
2025	01. VAP	195/94	Harassment		...THE SUSPECTS ON THIS OCCASION HAVE CATAPULTED SPIDERS ONTO CALLER

THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST
UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000, AND IS CORRECT AS AT 12/05/2025