| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-0214  Responded to: 13th February 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## Please see below a request for the following information relating to offences involving a knife blade or sharply pointed article.

## Question 1

## a. How many minors under the age of 18 have been arrested for possession of a knife blade or sharply pointed article?

## b. If it is within the time/cost limit set by the FOI Act, please provide a break down by age and sex?

## Question 2

## a. How many minors under the age of 18 have been charged for possession of a knife blade or sharply pointed article?

## b. If it is within the time/cost limit set by the FOI Act, please provide a break down by age and sex?

## Question 3

## a. How many minors under the age of 18 have been charged specifically with murder or manslaughter, as a result of a knife blade or sharply pointed article being used?

## b. If it is within the time/cost limit set by the FOI Act, please provide a break down by age and sex?

## Question 4

## What is the youngest age of a minor that has been arrested for possession of a knife blade or sharply pointed article?

## Question 5

## a. How many minors under the age of 18 have been recorded by your police force as being a seriously injured by a knife blade or sharply pointed article?

## b. If it is within the time/cost limit set by the FOI Act, please provide a break down by age and sex?

## Question 6

## a. How many minors under the age of 18 have been recorded by your police force as being a fatal victim by a knife blade or sharply pointed article?

## b. If it is within the time/cost limit set by the FOI Act, please provide a break down by age and sex?

## For each question, I would like data for each of the following time periods:

## · January 2020 – December 2020

## · January 2021 – December 2021

## · January 2022 – December 2022

In response to these questions, I regret to inform you that I am unable to provide you with the information you have requested, as it would prove too costly to do so within the context of the fee regulations.

As you may be aware the current cost threshold is £600 and I estimate that it would cost well in excess of this amount to process your request.

As such, and in terms of Section 16(4) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 where Section 12(1) of the Act (Excessive Cost of Compliance) has been applied, this represents a refusal notice for the information sought.

By way of explanation, the crime recording systems used by Police Scotland have no facility whereby the age of the accused or victim can be easily extracted.

As such, case by case assessment would have to be carried out of all potentially relevant crime reports for the time period requested - an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

If you require any further assistance please contact us quoting the reference above.

You can request a review of this response within the next 40 working days by [email](mailto:foi@scotland.police.uk) or by letter (Information Management - FOI, Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH). Requests must include the reason for your dissatisfaction.

If you remain dissatisfied following our review response, you can appeal to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner (OSIC) within 6 months - [online](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) or by letter (OSIC, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, KY16 9DS).

Following an OSIC appeal, you can appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

This response will be added to our [Disclosure Log](http://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log) in seven days' time.

Every effort has been taken to ensure our response is as accessible as possible. If you require this response to be provided in an alternative format, please let us know.