

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-0725  
Date: 14<sup>th</sup> April 2022



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002

I refer to your recent request for information which has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

For ease of reference, your request is replicated below together with the response.

- 1) The number of reports which contain both the word 'blade or point on school premises' where the suspect was under 18. Please provide figures for the 2019/2020 and 2020/21 academic years (1 September to 31 July), broken down by age of suspect, local authority area and the name of the school (unless the name of the school is exempt from release).**
- 2) For each of these incidents, if possible, please could you provide the outcome data?**

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, Police Scotland operates a number of crime recording systems. Whilst robust statistical analysis can be made of the data held on each of our systems, they are not, at present, designed to enable the retrieval of the highly specific information as per your request.

In this instance, it is not possible to carry out a force wide MO search of all crime reports, nor is it possible to search for specific terms or keywords on our systems.

As such, the only way to provide an accurate response to your request would be to individually examine each and every crime report for the time period requested, to establish whether the words specified were mentioned.

This would involve case by case assessment of tens of thousands of crime reports – an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

## OFFICIAL

To be of some assistance however, crimes in Scotland are recorded in accordance with the Scottish Government Justice Department offence classification codes, and there is a relevant offence '*Having in a school an article with a blade or point*'.

Recorded and detected crime statistics for this offence are published on the Police Scotland website, broken down by Council Area:-

### [How we are performing - Police Scotland](#)

It should be noted that we would be unable to confirm the ages of the Accused in each offence without carrying out case by case assessment of each.

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management Dundee, quoting the reference number given.

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which Police Scotland has dealt with your request, you are entitled, in the first instance, to request a review of our actions and decisions. Your request must specify the matter which gives rise to your dissatisfaction and it must be submitted within 40 working days of receiving this response - either by email to [foi@scotland.police.uk](mailto:foi@scotland.police.uk) or by post to Information Management (Disclosure), Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH.

If you remain dissatisfied following the outcome of that review, you are thereafter entitled to apply to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months for a decision. You can apply [online](#), by email to [enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) or by post to Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

Should you wish to appeal against the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner's decision, there is an appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

As part of our commitment to demonstrate openness and transparency in respect of the information we hold, an anonymised version of this response will be posted to the Police Scotland Freedom of Information [Disclosure Log](#) in seven days' time.