| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-1898  Responded to: 18th August 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## I am contacting you on behalf of a constituent who raised concerns with me about the proliferation of knife crime and the increased numbers of young people carrying knives daily in Galashiels for protection.

Please be advised that statistics regarding knife/ bladed weapon offences are publicly available.

As such, in terms of Section 16 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I am refusing to provide you with the information sought. Section 16 requires Police Scotland when refusing to provide such information because it is exempt, to provide you with a notice which:

(a) states that it holds the information,

(b) states that it is claiming an exemption,

(c) specifies the exemption in question and

(d) states, if that would not be otherwise apparent, why the exemption applies.

I can confirm that Police Scotland holds the information that you have requested and the exemptions that I consider to be applicable are set out at Section 25(1) and Section 27(1) of the Act - information otherwise accessible:

*“Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it under Section 1(1) is exempt information”*

*“Information is exempt information if it is held with a view to its being published […] at a date not later than twelve weeks after that on which the request for the information is made.”*

The information you are seeking is available on the Police Scotland website, broken down into Multi-Member Ward (MMW) area, via the following link:

[Crime data - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/crime-data/)

Further statistics are also available via the following link:

[How we are performing - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/what-we-do/how-we-are-performing/)

The relevant MMW area is ‘Galashiels and District’ and you can search for knife and blade in the crime column.

Please note that statistics from Quarter 4 of the 2022/23 year and historical data dating back to 2013 will be published shortly.

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.