| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-0867  Responded to: 12 March 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**I’m looking into the numbers of knife related incidents which happen at schools.**

**I am requesting the following information under the Freedom of Information Act.**

**Please can you tell me the following:**

## For the years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 and 2024 the number of offences involving a knife committed at schools.

The information sought is held by Police Scotland, but I am refusing to provide it in terms of section 16(1) of the Act on the basis that the section 25(1) and 27(1) exemptions apply:

“Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it is exempt information”

Information is publicly available at  [Crime data - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/crime-data/)​ and will be updated in next few weeks

## what method did you use to filter offences down to those committed at schools?

In Scotland there is a specific crime of possessing or using a knife or bladed article in a school.  Similar classifications exist for other offensive weapons.

## For the years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 and 2024 the number of offences involving a knife at school broken down by offence subgroup as per the Home Office counting rules.

Home Office Crime Classifications and codes do not extend to Scotland and section 17 of the Act therefore applies. The information sought is not held by Police Scotland.

## For the years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 and 2024 the number of suspects for offences involving a knife committed at schools broken down by age and sex of the suspect?

## For the years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 and 2024 involving a knife committed at schools broken down by how the suspect knows the victim?

## For the years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 and 2024 the number of suspects for offences involving a knife committed at schools broken down by age and sex of the victim.

Unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process your request. I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) of the Act - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

By way of explanation, the only way to collate the requested information would be manually review each knife crime report for details of the suspect age/ sex, victim age/ sex and their relationship.

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.