| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-1830  Responded to: 14 August 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## 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, 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23 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). If that's not possible because of time/cost restraints - please provide as much data as possible counting back from 2022/23.

## Details of the weapon involved in each report - ie knife, screwdriver etc

## Details of any other crime that accompanied the 'blade or point on school premises' - for example ABH, GBH, wounding with intent.

Having considered these questions in terms of the above Act, 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 search for specific terms or keywords on our crime systems.

As such, the only way to provide an accurate response to your request would be to carry out case by case assessment of thousands of crime reports for the time period requested, to establish whether ‘blade or point’ was mentioned and how it related to the offence - an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

With regard to question three, I would further advise you that none of the offences listed are recognised in Scotland where crimes are recorded in accordance with the Scottish Government Justice Department crime classifications.

To be of assistance our published [crime statistics](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/what-we-do/how-we-are-performing/) (6a) include data for weapons offences in schools as this is a unique crime classification in Scotland.

Whilst this level of data is available, please be advised that to provide a breakdown of age/ weapon type etc would not be achievable within cost as it would require case by case research of crime reports.

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.