

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-0136
Date: 10 February 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.

Can you provide figures for the number of assaults involving a bladed weapon recorded by Police Scotland in the last four years. For example, how many recorded stabbings were there in 2021.

Can you please provide this information for the years of 2021, 2020, 2019 and 2018? If possible, can you please break down this information into separate months and years.

In accordance with Sections 12(1) (Excessive cost of compliance) and 16(4) (Refusal of request) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (the Act), this letter represents a Refusal Notice.

By way of explanation, we cannot provide the above requested information as we are unable to provide a breakdown of the number of assaults where a weapon (blade or otherwise) was used. The only way to extract the requested information would be to physically examine all crimes reports individually to identify if a bladed weapon was used.

If I was to use an estimate that it would take 5 minutes to check each report, then calculations show that for 2021 there were 58,656 recorded types of assaults. It would take approximately 4,888 hours, and would cost approximately £73,320 to carry out this task. This is in excess of the £600 prescribed by the Scottish Ministers under the Act.

To be of assistance I have provided, at the end of this letter, a table providing amount and types of assaults for years requested.

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management – Glasgow at foiglasgow@scotland.police.uk 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

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foi@scotland.pnn.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 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.

Table 1.

Title: Specified Recorded Crimes, Police Scotland ^{1,2}

Period: 1st January 2018 - 31st December 2021 (Calendar Years)

Crime/Offence	Calendar Month	Calendar Year			
		2018	2019	2020	2021
Attempted Murder	Jan	19	22	13	23
	Feb	17	19	15	13
	Mar	34	35	23	27
	Apr	23	18	21	25
	May	32	14	25	21
	Jun	26	35	29	26
	Jul	22	20	30	22
	Aug	26	29	26	18
	Sep	28	25	26	29
	Oct	25	20	25	18
	Nov	25	20	22	17
	Dec	26	19	23	17
Serious Assault	Jan	314	309	276	201
	Feb	300	309	275	198
	Mar	322	395	275	248
	Apr	340	332	215	250
	May	359	346	297	309
	Jun	322	402	275	329
	Jul	388	350	333	355
	Aug	344	309	389	328
	Sep	345	341	298	278
	Oct	292	326	268	277
	Nov	309	300	255	282
	Dec	378	314	252	286
Culpable and reckless, causing injury (from Apr 2011)	Jan	3	1	3	4
	Feb	2	3	5	3
	Mar	2	3	2	7
	Apr	4	8	1	2
	May	1	2	5	3
	Jun	5	3	2	3
	Jul	0	4	3	5
	Aug	4	4	2	1
	Sep	2	5	1	2
	Oct	5	3	5	5
	Nov	7	7	5	1
	Dec	6	4	3	2

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Common Assault	Jan	4056	3977	3784	3119
	Feb	3726	3901	3836	2756
	Mar	4223	4533	3834	3494
	Apr	4121	4205	3009	3545
	May	4621	4451	3696	4395
	Jun	4374	4369	3715	4455
	Jul	4355	4230	4316	4232
	Aug	4201	4329	4586	4357
	Sep	4163	4321	4061	4269
	Oct	4160	4140	3834	4342
	Nov	3965	4081	3773	4094
	Dec	4266	4485	3530	3957
Common assault of an emergency worker	Jan	580	660	590	656
	Feb	511	565	569	539
	Mar	579	673	600	681
	Apr	608	625	671	626
	May	619	625	818	748
	Jun	549	679	712	664
	Jul	631	650	710	713
	Aug	560	695	778	831
	Sep	530	657	611	641
	Oct	529	612	642	724
	Nov	519	556	668	599
	Dec	662	672	682	584
Total		61465	63047	57748	58656

All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. All data have been extracted from Police Scotland internal systems and are correct as at 25th January 2022.

¹ The Recorded Crimes are extracted using the Date Raised.

² Please note, the specified offences have been extracted:

- 100200 – Attempted Murder
- 100400 – Serious Assault
- 100401 – Causing injury by Culpable and Reckless Conduct
- 604701 – Common Assault
- 604706 – Minor Assault of an Emergency Worker