

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-1864
Date: 27th September 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 pupils found in possession of offensive weapons such as knives on school premises in the academic years 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22, and up to September 2022.**
- 2. The above information should be broken down by date, age of pupil, type of weapon, police response (e.g. arrest, warning etc), and whether the weapon was used to commit another crime, such as assault against a person.**

I must first of all advise you that crimes in Scotland are recorded in accordance with the Scottish Government Justice Department (SGJD) offence classification codes, and in this instance there are separate SGJD classification for possession and use of offensive weapons/ knives/ blades on school premises.

Recorded and Detected crime statistics for these offences are available on the Police Scotland [website](#).

Having considered your request in terms of the above Act, I regret to inform you that I am unable to provide you with the level of detail sought regarding whether pupils, ages and outcomes etc., 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, the crime recording systems used by Police Scotland have no facility available which allows for the details requested to be automatically retrieved and no facility which allows for the information to be easily extracted.

As such, the only way to provide an accurate response to your request would be to individually examine all relevant offences for the time period requested.

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As illustrated by our published statistics, this would involve case by case assessment of thousands of crime reports - an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

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 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.