| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-0610  Responded to: 18 February 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**This is a request under the Freedom of Information Act and I would like to receive the following information from your Police Force.**

**1. The number of crimes reports where a child under the age of 18 was in possession of a weapon on school/further education premises?**

**Please provide data for the following calendar years: 2014, 2019, 2023, 2024**

**Within this - please provide:**

**Breakdown of type of weapons used (please list examples if you cannot provide a full breakdown)**

**Breakdown of the ages of the children (e.g. Under 4, 4-6, 6-8, 8-10, 10-12, 12-14, 14-16, 16-18)**

**Breakdown of gender (male and female)**

**3. The number of crime reports where a child under the age of 18 was threatening someone with a weapon on school/further education premises?**

**Please provide data for the following calendar years: 2014, 2019, 2023, 2024**

**Within this - please provide:**

**Breakdown of type of weapons used (please list examples if you cannot provide a full breakdown)**

**Breakdown of the ages of the children (e.g. Under 4, 4-6, 6-8, 8-10, 10-12, 12-14, 14-16, 16-18)**

**Breakdown of gender (male and female)**

Regarding question 1 and 3 of you requestunfortunately, 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, in relation to further education premises for all years and school premises for 2014, we have no way of identifying such crimes therefore the only way to collate this data in an accurate and concise way would be to manually review all weapons related crime reports for relevance.

In relation to school premises, specific crime classifications for possession/ use of an offensive weapon/ knife were introduced in 2017 and corresponding data can be accessed online - [Crime data - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/crime-data/)  
We are however unable to extract data on the age or gender of the accused, the weapon type and the nature of any 'use' other than by case by case assessment of crime reports.  Given the numbers involved, s12 would again, apply.

**2. The number of crime reports where a child under the age of 18 has committed the following offences on school/further education premises?**

**Please provide data for each offence for the following calendar years: 2014, 2019, 2023, 2024**

**a)  Common Assault & Battery**

**b) ABH (s47)**

**b) GBH (s20)**

**c) Wounding with or without a weapon (s18)**

**Within this - please provide**

**Breakdown of the number of victims who was a pupil**

**Breakdown of the number of victims who was a member of staff**

**Breakdown of the ages of the children (e.g. Under 4, 4-6, 6-8, 8-10, 10-12, 12-14, 14-16, 16-18)**

**Breakdown of gender (male and female)**

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.

Crimes in Scotland are recorded in accordance with the [Scottish Government Justice Department (SGJD)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/user-guide-recorded-crime-statistics-scotland-3/documents/) offence classifications, however there is no Scottish crime classification relevant to your request.

To be of assistance, crime data can be accessed online - [Crime data - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/crime-data/).

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.