| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-0959  Responded to: 28 April 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**I am submitting this freedom of information request to ask for the following data.  
1. Homicide/attempted homicides involving bladed/pointed instrument broken down by council area in Scotland for the last three years up to the latest available data**

Firstly, I must advise that homicides are categorised as resolved or unresolved.

Unresolved homicides are considered those where:

1. No suspect has been identified
2. A suspect has been identified but not charged (no proceedings)
3. A suspect has been identified and charged but not placed on petition (no proceedings)
4. A suspect has appeared on petition, but no indictment served due to there being considered an insufficiency of evidence at that time (no proceedings)
5. A suspect has been indicted and a trial concluded which has resulted in an acquittal (Not Guilty/Not Proven)
6. A suspect has been convicted but acquitted on appeal and no fresh prosecution has been authorised by the Appeal Court (Not Guilty)
7. A suspect has committed suicide prior to trial and no other person is being sought in connection with the case.
8. A suspect has been charged then reported and is currently awaiting trial.

In relation to *unresolved* homicides, I must advise,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 following exemptions apply:

**Section 34(1)(b) - Investigations**

Information is exempt information if it has at any time been held by a Scottish public authority for the purposes of an investigation, conducted by the authority, which in the circumstances may lead to a decision by the authority to make a report to the procurator fiscal to enable it to be determined whether criminal proceedings should be instituted.

This exemption is non-absolute and requires the application of the public interest test.

**Public Interest Test**

I appreciate that there is a degree of interest in the release of the information you have requested and that the disclosure of such, would help inform public debate on policing in Scotland.

However, it is essential that any release of information does not interfere or prejudice enquiries or risk such enquiries in the future. To disclose information regarding unresolved homicide, with particular reference any weapon used during the commission of such crime could place any ongoing enquiries at risk, to do so would be vastly against the public interest. The balance lies in withholding the information requested at this time.

With respect to *resolved* homicides, please see the table below for relevant data.

*Table: Resolved homicides – knife as weapon – 01/01/2022 – 27/03/2025*

| **Date Committed** | **Council Area** | **Weapon Type** | **Weapon Specific** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 14/02/2022 | North Lanarkshire | Sharp Instrument | Knife |
| 10/04/2022 | North Lanarkshire | Sharp Instrument | Knife |
| 01/04/2022 | North Lanarkshire | Sharp Instrument | Knife |
| 01/05/2022 | Glasgow City | Sharp Instrument | Knife |
| 05/05/2022 | City of Edinburgh | Sharp Instrument | Knife |
| 06/06/2022 | Dumfries and Galloway | Sharp Instrument | Knife |
| 18/06/2022 | Orkney Islands | Sharp Instrument | Knife |
| 16/07/2022 | South Lanarkshire Council | Sharp Instrument | Knife |
| 10/08/2022 | The Highland Council | Sharp Instrument | Knife |
| 18/09/2022 | East Ayrshire Council | Sharp Instrument | Knife |
| 20/12/2022 | North Lanarkshire | Sharp Instrument | Knife |
| 05/02/2023 | Aberdeen City | Sharp Instrument | Knife |
| 07/02/2023 | South Lanarkshire Council | Sharp Instrument | Knife |
| 13/02/2023 | Glasgow City | Sharp Instrument | Knife |
| 24/02/2023 | North Lanarkshire | Sharp Instrument | Knife |
| 07/03/2023 | Stirling Council | Sharp Instrument | Knife |
| 25/03/2023 | City of Edinburgh | Sharp Instrument | Knife |
| 18/05/2023 | City of Edinburgh | Sharp Instrument | Knife |
| 02/06/2023 | City of Edinburgh | Sharp Instrument | Knife |
| 06/06/2023 | City of Edinburgh | Sharp Instrument | Knife |
| 26/06/2022 | Falkirk Council | Sharp Instrument | Knife |
| 28/07/2023 | Glasgow City | Sharp Instrument | Knife |
| 05/09/2023 | Falkirk Council | Sharp Instrument | Knife |

With respect to *attempted* homicide with a bladed/pointed instrument, 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, each crime report would have to be reviewed to identify if a weapon was used.

To be of assistance, you may find the following link of interest: [How we are performing - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/what-we-do/how-we-are-performing/)

**2. Knife crimes (other) including assault and handling bladed/pointed instrument used in criminal activity broken down by council area in Scotland for the last three years up to the latest available data**

**3. If information is available by specific police area within Edinburgh could this breakdown be provided for the last three years too. I am researching knife crime in Edinburgh relative to the rest of Scotland - with a specific focus on the Leith area.**

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 (for the period …etc) is publicly available:

[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](https://www.foi.scot/appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@foi.scot) 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.