| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-1604  Responded to: 23rd June 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## Over the last three years

## How many fatal stabbings by the use of a knife have there been in Scotland of young people aged between 10 and 20. Broken down by geographical areas, age and by gender.

In response to your request for the number of fatal knife stabbings of young people aged between 10 and 20 years old, over the last three years I can confirm:

From 01/01/2022 to 31/12/2022, there were no fatal stabbings of young people aged between 10 and 20.

From 01/01/2023 to 31/12/2023, there was one incident which occurred in Edinburgh. The victim was an 18-year-old male, and the male accused was 19 years old. This case has been resolved.

From 01/01/2024 to 31/12/2024, there was one incident which occurred in Glasgow. The victim was a 16-year-old male, and the male accused was 13 years old. This case has been resolved.

From 01/01/2025 to 27/05/2025, there was two incidents:

1) One incident occurred in Glasgow. The victim was a 15-year-old male, and the males accused were 14 years old and 16 years old. This case is awaiting trial.

2) One incident occurred in Ayrshire. The victim was 16 years old, and the males accused were 17 years old, 17 years old and 14 years old. This case is awaiting trial.

It is important to note that to conduct the research, a search was made to include the weapon used being a ‘knife’ as well as a ‘bladed item’ to return more accurate results.

## How many young people were hospitalised as a result of stabbings.

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, I can advise that although a stabbing which did *not* result in death would most likely be recorded under the ‘use of offensive weapon’ crime classification, it could also be recorded under various other violence-based crime classifications (theft, assault, sexual etc.). Since we are unable to automatically retrieve this level of detail specifically (non-fatal stabbings), for the three-year period covered by your request all relevant crime reports would need to be individually examined to ascertain whether the victim was hospitalised. Unfortunately, this exercise would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

## How many of the fatal stabbings were carried out by young people on young people, aged between 10 and 20) and what was the age, gender of those carrying out the stabbings.

Please refer to the information provided above in response to your first request – all these incidents listed have been attacks on young people *by* young people.

## How many young people ( between 10 and 20) by geographical area, aged between 10 and 20 were stopped by the Police carrying a knife and what was the result of the Police intervention ie: warning, arrest, charged, sentenced.

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) exemption applies:

“Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it […] is exempt information”.

However, to be of assistance, I can advise that our Stop and Search statistics are publicly available on the Police Scotland website, with the most recent figures due to be updated in the next few weeks:

[Data Publication - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/stop-and-search/data-publication/)

## What type of knives were found regarding question 3.

Unfortunately, I regret to inform you that I estimate 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.

To explain, I can advise that the only way to provide an accurate and consistent response to your request would be to manually review every stop-and-search report relating to the possession an instrument (offensive weapon, bladed article, knife etc.) to establish the specific type from any knife-related associated productions. Given the volume of reports that would be required to be read through for the period requested, this exercise would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

## What is the comparable information regarding questions1 to 4, has knife crime risen from the previous three years.

Please refer to the data which we have provided you with alongside the statistics which I have advised you of on the Police Scotland website, both of which cover the three-year period you wish to compare.

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.