| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 24-0048Responded to: 26 January 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**The number of under-18s committing rape and sexual assault with a knife in the following years?
2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023**

Having considered your request in terms of the above Act, I regret to inform you that I am unable to provide you with the information you have requested, 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 data requested would be significantly complex to collate.  Firstly, we cannot search crime reports based on the age of the accused at the time of the offence, meaning that all rape/ sexual assault reports would have to be read for relevance.  Furthermore, there are no markers to indicate the use of a weapon during the offence.

In accordance with the Scottish Government Justice Department offence classifications, use of a knife would be recorded as a separate offence.  Again therefore, the detail of the sexual offence report would have to be read for any reference to a knife.  To be of assistance, data regarding sexual offences more generally is available 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 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 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.