| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-2662  Responded to: 31 October 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## The total number of knife crimes recorded each year from 2013 to date, broken down by year

Please be advised that recorded and detected crime statistics are publicly available.

As such, in terms of Section 16 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, I am refusing to provide you with the information sought. Section 16 requires Police Scotland when refusing to provide such information because it is exempt, to provide you with a notice which:

(a) states that it holds the information,

(b) states that it is claiming an exemption,

(c) specifies the exemption in question and

(d) states, if that would not be otherwise apparent, why the exemption applies.

I can confirm that Police Scotland holds the information that you have requested and the exemption that I consider to be applicable is set out at Section 25(1) of the Act - information otherwise accessible:

*“Information which the applicant can reasonably obtain other than by requesting it under Section 1(1) is exempt information”*

The information you are seeking is available on the Police Scotland website, via the following link: [How we are performing - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/what-we-do/how-we-are-performing/) – group 5 and for data prior to 2018: [statistics.gov.scot: Recorded Crimes and Offences](https://statistics.gov.scot/resource?uri=http://statistics.gov.scot/data/recorded-crime)

## Of these, over the same time period broken down by year, how many involved the use of a prohibited offensive weapon or blade, such as a zombie knife or machete, or other specified offensive weapon as per the The Criminal Justice Act (Offensive Weapons) see Annex A [https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-offensive-weapons-act-2019/statutory-guidance-offensive-weapons-act-2019-accessible-version#annex-a--list-of-offensive-weapons](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.uk%2Fgovernment%2Fpublications%2Fthe-offensive-weapons-act-2019%2Fstatutory-guidance-offensive-weapons-act-2019-accessible-version%23annex-a--list-of-offensive-weapons&data=05%7C01%7Cfoi%40scotland.police.uk%7C765337b4ced347a097e008dbcc0ea344%7C6795c5d3c94b497a865c4c343e4cf141%7C0%7C0%7C638328135472579209%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=kjQm%2BIW4prc8oCpqIyEzBpaQEWqNvkJUAVw77RtVpX8%3D&reserved=0)

## If possible, please provide a breakdown of these by type of offensive weapon

Having considered this question in terms of the 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 only way to provide an accurate response to your request would be to examine each and every potentially relevant crime to establish whether a knife or blade was involved and the name/type/description of the said weapon. To illustrate the numbers involved, as of Q4 of financial year 2022/23 there were 9,718 crimes recorded involving an offensive/bladed weapon. Therefore, this is an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

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.