| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 25-0524Responded to: 06 March 2025 |
| --- | --- |

Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## I would like to know how many reports were made of weapon possession in schools.

## I would also like to know how many reports were made of attacks involving blades or sharp instruments in schools.

## For each of these requests I would like a breakdown of the figures by the years 2014,2015,2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024. If the number of years requested is too large, please just complete for the years 2019-2024.

For the period April 2017 to March 2024, 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 April 2017 to March 2024 is publicly available:

[Crime data - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/crime-data/)

Information for the period March to December 2024 will be published at the same link within 12 weeks of this response (in the next few weeks).

“Information is exempt information if it is held with a view to its being published […] at a date not later than twelve weeks after […] the request for the information is made”.

I believe it is reasonable in all the circumstances that the information be withheld from disclosure at this time and that maintaining the exemption outweighs any public interest in disclosure.

In relation to the period prior to April 2017, unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process this part of 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, the new crime classifications were introduced in April 2017 and prior to then, to research your request would require the individual assessment of all crime reports relating to weapon offences.

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](https://www.foi.scot/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.