| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-2125  Responded to: xx September 2023 |
| --- | --- |

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

## Please provide me with the following information for 2023;

## 1. What is the number of children who have been caught carrying offensive weapons in Scotland?

## 2. Could this be broken down by local police force, i.e. Greater Glasgow etc.?

## 3. Could I be provided with the types of weapons they were found to be carrying i.e. baton etc.

## 4. The locations where children were found to have an offensive weapon on them e.g. school, shop, park, etc.

## 5. The ages and genders of the children who were found with offensive weapon and whether they were charged.

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 incident and crime recording systems used by Police Scotland have no markers etc. available which would indicate the age of an accused at the time of an offence or the weapon involved. Case by case assessment would have to be carried out of all potentially relevant reports to determine the level of detail requested - an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

To illustrate, this would involve the review of all crime reports relating to the use of an Offensive Weapon, which based on the most recent reporting period of 22/23 were 9,718 recorded crimes.

To be of some assistance you may be interested in our published statistics regarding weapons in schools although it should be noted that the accused will not *necessarily* be a child in all cases.

This 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/) – search by reporting period and Data table 7 / Group 5 (other crimes).

You may also be interested in our stop and search information which is searchable by age

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

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.