| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-2570  Responded to: 26th October 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## 1. The number of pupils aged 18 and under found in possession of offensive weapons such as knives, pellet guns, hammers etc on school premises (nursery, primary and secondary) in the academic years 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 so far.

## 2. The above information should be broken down by date/month of incident, age of pupil, and description of the weapon.

## 3. It should also include what the police response was (arrest, warning etc), and whether the weapon was used to commit another crime, such as assault against a pupil or teacher.

In response to these questions, 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.

To explain, crimes in Scotland are recorded in accordance with the Scottish Government Justice Department offence classification codes and whilst there are relevant crime classifications related to bladed/ offensive weapons in a school, the crime recording systems used by Police Scotland have no facility whereby the requested details can be easily extracted.

As such, case by case assessment of all relevant crime reports would have to be carried out to establish the age of the individual involved and the weapon used.

Recorded and Detected crime statistics are publicly available on the Police Scotland [website](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/what-we-do/how-we-are-performing/), and as illustrated, the number of crime reports which would require individual assessment is vast. As such, 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.