

**From:** [Foi Enquiries](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FOI-17-0710 - Offensive Weapons in Schools  
**Date:** 07 June 2017 14:30:27  
**Attachments:** [Further Information - Right to Review & Appeal.pdf](#)

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Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your information request of 15 May 2017. Aberdeen City Council (ACC) has completed the necessary search for the information requested.

**Can you please endeavour to get to back to me on this FOI request?**

- 1. How many offensive weapons have been confiscated from pupils in Aberdeen City Council primary and secondary schools in the past 10 years?**
- 2. In each case please specify:**
  - **Exactly what type of weapon**
  - **Where it was found (i.e. rucksack or pocket)**
  - **The age and sex of the pupil in possession of the weapon**
  - **In which school it was found**
- 3. Can you specify if and how a child brandished or used the weapon against a pupil/member of staff in each case?**
- 4. What happened to the child caught with the weapon in each case (excluded/reprimanded)?**
- 5. Were the police involved?**
- 6. Can you also specify the month and year that each weapon was found?**

Aberdeen City Council does not hold a central record of how many offensive weapons have been confiscated from pupils in the last 10 years. While such incidents may be recorded in a child's personal school record, each school would have to check individual pupil files to gather the information and this would take a significant length of time.

ACC is unable to provide you with information on how many offensive weapons have been confiscated from pupils in the past 10 years as the cost of providing it has been calculated as being in excess of the statutory maximum (£600). To explain this, it would involve a member of staff in each school going through searching through every individual pupil's file for the information sought, making notes and collating the data. A conservative estimate is that it would take 10 minutes to complete this process for each file so, for example, in a secondary school with a roll of 800 pupils this would equate to over 133 hours of work and a cost in the region of £2000. Given that the same process would have to be replicated in each of our schools, the final cost would well exceed the maximum cost of £600.

In order to comply with its obligations under the terms of Section 16 of the FOISA, ACC hereby give notice that we are refusing your request under the terms of Section 12 - Excessive Cost of

Compliance - of the FOISA.

Under our duty to provide advice and assistance, we would like to advise that ACC has recently approved an 'Anti-Weapon/Knife Crime strategy' which includes centrally reporting and recording weapons incidents in schools going forward.

We hope this helps with your request.

Yours sincerely,

Information Compliance Team

### **INFORMATION ABOUT THE HANDLING OF YOUR REQUEST**

ACC handled your request for information in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002. Please refer to the attached PDF for more information about your rights under FOISA.

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