



Knife Crime

Please note, this is a sensitive topic that impacts many people. If you find that this has caused you any upset or distress, please stop and seek appropriate support or feel free to reach out to the Safeguarding team at safeguarding@qa.com

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Knife Crime.

Office of National Statistics data show that Police Crime Statistics recorded 50,510 Knife Crimes in the year up to March 2024, which is an increase of 4% compared to the previous. In the last ten years police recorded offences involving a knife or sharp instrument have risen by 78%. (www.ons.gov.uk).

Knife crime is any crime involving an object with a blade or sharp instrument that can include anything from a kitchen knife or piece of glass, to a potato peeler or a knitting needle.

Knife crime includes:

- carrying a knife
- trying to buy a knife if you are under 18
- threatening someone with a knife
- owning a banned knife
- injuring or fatally wounding somebody with a knife
- intent to injure or harm somebody with a knife
- a robbery or burglary where a knife was carried as a weapon

The Law.

Listed below are the knife crime laws for the UK. In 2024 zombie-style knives were banned in the UK and it is now illegal to possess, sell, manufacture or transport these zombie-style knives and machetes. Please note there are some variations in the law between England, Wales & Scotland.

- It is against the law to carry a knife in a public place, unless the blade is less than 3 inches long and is a manual folding blade. Doing so can carry a prison sentence of up to 4 years even if it is not used in England & Wales, and 5 years in Scotland.
- It is against the law to carry a knife on behalf of someone else
- Using any knife in a threatening way, even those that can be legally carried, is a criminal offence.
- A person must be 18 or over to purchase a knife. This includes cutlery and kitchen knives. In Scotland, people between the ages of 16 and 18 can legally purchase cutlery and kitchen knives.
- A person over the age of 16 can purchase a knife only if the blade is less than 3 inches in length and is a manual folding blade.
- In the UK, it is illegal to bring into the country, sell, possess, hire or give someone a banned knife. Banned knives include: butterfly knives, disguised knives, flick knives, and zombie knives. A full list of banned knives in the UK can be found on the [GOV website](http://www.gov.uk).

(crimestoppers-uk.org)

A Zombie-Style knife is any bladed weapon over eight inches in length with a plain cutting edge and sharp pointed end that also has either a serrated cutting edge, more than one hole in the blade, or multiple sharp points like spikes.



A person will not be convicted if an unbanned knife or weapon was carried for a lawful reason. An example could be someone who uses a knife for work, carrying it on their way to or from work. But carrying a knife or other weapon for protection is not a lawful reason. If you carry a knife for an unlawful reason, the consequences might be:

- Up to 4 years in prison, an unlimited fine or both. You'll get a prison sentence if you're convicted of carrying a knife or weapon illegally more than once. (www.gov.uk)
- Where someone is actually harmed by a knife or offensive weapon, there are a range of offences that they may be charged with, such as causing grievous bodily harm, or even murder. These can result in lengthy sentences, up to life imprisonment.

Why do People carry Knives.

People carry knives for a number of different reasons. These could include self-defence or protection, because they are scared, or have previously been a victim of crime, to gain respect, or because they feel pressured to do so.

UK rhetoric draws attention to gang culture and race being a major factor. Scholar Akala (2018) offers insightful views, and refers to other 'social indicators' that may underpin predispositions to knife crime and criminality:



Consider:

- This interview was recorded in 2019, how relevant do you feel Akala's points are today?
- With focus on poverty, domestic violence, school exclusions and being in care as social indicators, could the longevity of the 'cost of living crisis' have fed the rise of knife crime in the UK over the past ten years?
- What other groups of people suffer disenfranchisement, poverty and exclusion in the UK in 2024?

Where to get help:



[Stop knife crime | Metropolitan Police](#) - Tackling knife crime is a priority for the police; whether you want to find out how you can help yourself, your friends or family, you'll find practical help and advice on these pages.



[Home - Victim Support](#) – For independent, free and confidential advice after a crime.



[The Ben Kinsella Trust | #StopKnifeCrime](#) - Providing knife crime prevention workshops to young people. Empowering educators with tools, resources and training to ensure knife crime prevention can reach every child.

Resources:

- [akala knife crime - Google Search](#)
- [Crime in England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)
- [Crime in England and Wales: Police Force Area data tables - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#)
- [Professional Insights: Understanding and Addressing Knife Crime | Crimestoppers \(crimestoppers-uk.org\)](#)
- [Selling, buying and carrying knives and weapons - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

