# Police dog intercepts man with machete amid rising knife crime in Larbert



A recent incident in Larbert, near Falkirk, unveiled escalating concerns about knife crime in Scotland when a man was apprehended wielding an enormous machete. The alarming episode unfolded during a routine training exercise for local police dog handlers, leading to the swift intervention of a specially trained canine named Foss. While the officers were engaged in their drills, reports of a suspicious male prompted their immediate attendance at the scene. Foss played a crucial role in successfully locating and seizing the formidable weapon, which boasted a blade exceeding one-and-a-half feet in length, drawing attention to the alarming prevalence of dangerous weapons in public spaces.

The machete, adorned with a black handle and covered in dark electrical tape, featured a logo from American knife manufacturer Mtech USA, raising questions about its origins and intended use. The weapon was found concealed by the individual, who clearly underestimated the watchful presence of police training nearby. This incident highlights not only the effectiveness of police canines in crime prevention but also serves as a stark reminder of the ongoing battle against knife-related violence in communities.

The recent apprehension is part of a broader narrative surrounding rising knife crime in Scotland. Just this year, a tragic event occurred at Irvine Beach when 16-year-old Kayden Moy lost his life to a stabbing, prompting renewed calls from community leaders for parents and young people to engage in conversations about violence. Lyndsay McDade, manager of Crimestoppers’ youth service Fearless, articulated the need for openness in discussing such issues, urging young individuals to report any knowledge of weapons or violent behaviour to trusted adults. Her sentiments echo the urgent need for proactive measures against rising youth violence, as public figures advocate for a cultural shift in addressing these topics directly.

More alarming statistics illuminate the landscape of violent crime in Larbert specifically. Recent incidents include a 2024 attack on a train heading to Larbert, which resulted in serious injuries to a young man and led to a significant police presence at the station. Such events underscore the urgent and persistent nature of violent crime in the region, particularly involving bladed weapons. Additionally, previous cases of machete-related assaults, such as the 2019 assault in Selkirk, reveal a troubling pattern of violence that communities must confront.

Indeed, the implications of machete violence present a serious challenge to public safety, further illustrated by the case of Mark McDonald, who was jailed in 2020 for brandishing a machete during a public disturbance. Such incidents not only expose individuals to immediate danger but also indicate a broader societal issue of substance abuse and mental health that often accompanies violent behaviour.

In light of these recurring patterns, the efforts of law enforcement and community advocacy groups are essential in tackling the trend of knife crime. The success of Police Dog Foss in this recent incident not only served to remove a dangerous weapon from the streets but highlighted the vital role that community vigilance plays in reducing crime. The convergence of proactive policing, community outreach, and public awareness initiatives illustrates a multifaceted approach necessary to address the pressing issue of knife violence pervasive in Scotland today.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/scots-knifeman-caught-huge-machete-35309068), [[2]](https://www.falkirkherald.co.uk/news/crime/bike-cop-thought-man-had-pulled-a-machete-from-his-trousers-1085522)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/scots-knifeman-caught-huge-machete-35309068), [[5]](https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/courts/2987856/machete-thug-jailed-after-police-manhunt-in-glenrothes/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-south-scotland-49291165), [[4]](https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/crg915gzypqo)
* Paragraph 4 – [[6]](https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/man-found-knives-axe-near-26502075), [[7]](https://www.falkirkherald.co.uk/news/crime/falkirk-crime-police-give-update-on-larbert-incident-which-saw-man-airlifted-to-hospital-3747357)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/scots-knifeman-caught-huge-machete-35309068)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/scots-knifeman-caught-huge-machete-35309068> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.falkirkherald.co.uk/news/crime/bike-cop-thought-man-had-pulled-a-machete-from-his-trousers-1085522> - In January 2017, a police officer on bicycle patrol in Larbert, Scotland, observed a woman carrying a baseball bat. As he attempted to detain her, a man, Andrew Easton, approached and appeared to draw a machete from his trousers. The officer activated his panic alarm, prompting a response from armed units. Easton fled but was apprehended after a brief pursuit. He pleaded guilty to threatening behaviour, and sentencing was deferred for a social work report. The incident highlighted the dangers faced by officers during routine patrols.
3. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-south-scotland-49291165> - In February 2019, Harrison Long, 28, was found guilty of attacking a 42-year-old man with a machete in Selkirk, Scotland. The assault occurred in broad daylight in the town centre following a dispute over a dog. The victim sustained a five-inch cut to his arm and a fractured elbow. Long denied being at the scene but was convicted after a three-day trial. Sentencing was deferred until August 2019, with Long remanded in custody. The case underscored the severity of machete-related violence in Scotland.
4. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/crg915gzypqo> - In February 2024, a 46-year-old man was charged with attempted murder after an attack with a weapon on a train heading to Larbert, Scotland. The incident occurred around 7:40 pm, resulting in a large police presence at Larbert station. A man in his 20s was seriously injured and hospitalised, while a second man in his 20s received treatment and was released. The accused also faced charges of assault and possession of an offensive weapon, with a report prepared for the Procurator Fiscal.
5. <https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/news/courts/2987856/machete-thug-jailed-after-police-manhunt-in-glenrothes/> - In August 2020, Mark McDonald, 41, was jailed for over two years after brandishing a machete during a disturbance in Glenrothes, Scotland. McDonald, intoxicated at the time, damaged a window with the blade before fleeing into nearby undergrowth. A police dog located him hiding in the bushes. He admitted to threatening behaviour, brandishing a machete, and theft of alcohol. The sheriff noted McDonald's significant risk to others due to his history of substance misuse and offending.
6. <https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/man-found-knives-axe-near-26502075> - In May 2021, Robert Laidlaw, 31, was found with multiple knives and an axe near Bellsdyke Hospital in Larbert, Scotland. Laidlaw was not a patient at the hospital. Two months later, in July 2021, he was arrested for brandishing a knife at two men in Bo'ness, West Lothian. The incidents led to his arrest and subsequent legal proceedings, highlighting concerns over weapon possession and public safety in the region.
7. <https://www.falkirkherald.co.uk/news/crime/falkirk-crime-police-give-update-on-larbert-incident-which-saw-man-airlifted-to-hospital-3747357> - In June 2022, a 36-year-old man was airlifted to Glasgow's Queen Elizabeth University Hospital with serious injuries following an assault in Larbert, Scotland. The incident occurred at a property on Paton Drive, prompting a significant police response. Two men, aged 21 and 22, were arrested and charged with attempted murder. The police reassured the public that no one else was being sought in connection with the incident, which underscored ongoing concerns about violent crime in the area.