# Police Chief Acknowledges Limitations in Tackling Knife Crime Amid Rise in Offenses



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Commander Stephen Clayman, the National Police Chiefs' Council's lead for knife crime, acknowledged that police alone cannot solve the growing issue of knife crime in the UK. Despite efforts to curb the sale of weapons, criminals are increasingly using social media platforms such as Snapchat, TikTok, Meta, and Telegram to distribute illegal knives.

Official statistics indicate a 7% rise in knife crime offenses to December 2023, with 49,489 incidents recorded. London saw a 22% spike, with over 14,000 offenses up to September 2023. Notable recent incidents include the fatal stabbing of 15-year-old Elianne Andam in Croydon and the death of 14-year-old Daniel Anjorin in a sword attack in Hainault.

The Home Office has announced a £4 million funding boost, which includes investments in new knife detection technologies. Additionally, laws around zombie knives, machetes, and swords are set to be tightened, giving police increased powers to seize these weapons from private properties starting in September.

Youth services are highlighted as crucial for intervention work, with a focus on addressing underlying societal issues such as deprivation and lack of opportunity. Clayman stressed the need for a generational change and collaboration with various partners, including social media companies and government bodies, for effective long-term solutions.

This increase in knife-related crimes has prompted further police actions under Operation Sceptre and discussions in the Home Affairs Select Committee, emphasizing the severity of the issue and the necessity for a multi-faceted approach.