

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-0858  
Date: 16 May 2022



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002

I refer to your recent request for information which has been handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

Please accept our apologies for the delay in providing a response.

Police Scotland continues to investigate reports of 'spiking'.

Spiking, whether by adding drugs or alcohol to someone's drink, or by injection, without their consent, is a criminal offence. It can put people at significant risk of harm.

Officers are not always able to determine the reasons why a perpetrator carries out an assault in this way, but every report is taken seriously and investigated robustly.

Police Scotland continues to work with a range of partners, locally and nationally to ensure pubs and clubs are safe spaces for all.

We are working in communities, with licensees, pubs and clubs, to provide advice and support and to offer bystander training to help spot the signs of when someone may be at risk. We have also reached out to student communities to offer advice, support and reassurance.

We would encourage anyone who believes they have had their drink spiked or been assaulted in this way to contact Police Scotland on 101 or in an emergency 999.

For ease of reference, your request is replicated below together with the response.

- **I'd like to know the number of reported cases of people having their drink spiked at licensed premises within the following postcode locations - FK7, FK8, FK9, FK15, FK16, FK17, FK18, FK19, FK20, FK21 and G63 - for each year between 2017 and 2022. Additionally, in how many of these reported incidents the victim was tested for drugs.**
- **I'd like to know the number of individuals arrested in connection with drink spiking at licensed premises within the following postcode locations - FK7, FK8, FK9, FK15, FK16, FK17, FK18, FK19, FK20, FK21 and G63 - for each year between 2017 and 2022.**

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I would first of all advise you that crimes in Scotland are recorded in accordance with the Scottish Government Justice Department (SGJD) offence classifications.

Whilst there is no classification for 'spiking' specifically, I have progressed your request in terms of the two most *potentially relevant* crime classifications as follows:

**Drugging** - Is a Crime at Common Law, when drugs are feloniously administered with intent to produce stupefaction. There need be no further intent, and it is not necessary that injury to the person be caused.

**Administering a substance for sexual purposes** - Section 11 of the Sexual Offences Scotland Act 2009 refers (for further details please see [www.legislation.gov.uk](http://www.legislation.gov.uk))

Recorded crime data for the period/ postcode locations has been assessed for relevance in terms of whether the crime locus was a licensed premise *and* whether or not the alleged MO of the crime was drink spiking specifically.

On that basis, I can advise you that between 1 January 2017 and 20 April 2022 inclusive, there were 11 recorded crimes of relevance, all of which are currently undetected.

In all but one report, a sample was taken from the victim for testing.

The reports can be broken down by year as follows:

2017 - 0  
2018 - 0  
2019 - 1  
2020 - 0  
2021 - 6  
2022 - 4

*All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information.*

*All data have been extracted from Police Scotland internal systems and are correct as at 25th April 2022.*

*The Recorded Crimes are extracted using the Date Raised, and then mapping the Crimes to the specified Postcode Districts using ArcGIS software.*

*Only records with a Grid East and Grid North can be plotted and selected. Not all records have a Grid East and Grid North recorded.*

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management quoting the reference number given.

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which Police Scotland has dealt with your request, you are entitled, in the first instance, to request a review of our actions and decisions.

Your request must specify the matter which gives rise to your dissatisfaction and it must be submitted within 40 working days of receiving this response - either by email to [foi@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:foi@scotland.pnn.police.uk) or by post to Information Management (Disclosure), Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH.

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If you remain dissatisfied following the outcome of that review, you are thereafter entitled to apply to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months for a decision. You can apply [online](#), by email to [enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) or by post to Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

Should you wish to appeal against the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner's decision, there is an appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

As part of our commitment to demonstrate openness and transparency in respect of the information we hold, an anonymised version of this response will be posted to the Police Scotland Freedom of Information [Disclosure Log](#) in seven days' time.