| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 25-0476  Responded to: 11 June 2025 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## This request is in relation to spiking. By spiking, I’m referring to both spiking via injection or ‘needle spiking’ and also alcohol or other drugs or substances being added to drinks. I believe this falls under your designations of Drugging and Administering a substance for sexual purposes.

## For the time period covering 01/01/2020 31/12/ 2024 please provide:

## 1. The number of reports received by the force in relation to any spiking, Drugging and Administering a substance for sexual purposes.

## 2. Can you give the figures for reports in each of these years I.e 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024?

Police Scotland continues to investigate reports of 'spiking'. Spiking, whether by adding drugs or alcohol to someone’s drink, or by injection, or any other method, 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 who has been assaulted in this way to contact Police Scotland on 101 or in an emergency 999.

In relation to crime data, I would advise you that crimes in Scotland are recorded in accordance with the Scottish Government Justice Department offence classifications.

Whilst there is no classification for ‘spiking’ specifically, I have considered your request in terms of the 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](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2009/9/section/11) refers.

The table below details recorded crimes for the period covered by your request:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Crime Type** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** | **2024** |
| Administering a substance for sexual purposes | 14 | 17 | 17 | 12 | 10 |
| Drugging | 20 | 196 | 184 | 119 | 122 |

All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information.   
Data was extracted from Police Scotland systems and are correct as at 04/04/2025

## 3. Can you give the figures for the number of arrests related to these reports in each of the years?

The Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2016 removed the separate concepts of arrest and detention and replaced them with a power of arrest without warrant - where there are reasonable grounds for suspecting a person has committed, or is committing, an offence.

When a person is arrested, a statement of arrest should be read over as soon as reasonably practicable, and details recorded in the arresting officer’s notebook.

A person is ‘Not Officially Accused’ (a suspect) when arrested *and* *not* cautioned and charged. They are ‘Officially Accused’ once arrested *and* cautioned and charged.

If conveyed to a police station, the arrested person will have their details recorded in our National Custody System.

There are situations however whereby a person must be released from police custody prior to their arrival at a police station - effectively they are ‘de-arrested’ - where the reasonable grounds for suspicion no longer exist. In those circumstances, the details of an arrested person are not held electronically.

As a result, we are unfortunately unable to collate comprehensivearrest data, as case by case assessment of all officer notebooks would be required - in addition to the partialarrest data held in the National Custody System.

Unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process your request and I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

For the reasons outlined above, Police Scotland do not collate data on arrests.

Instead, data is compiled and published based on recorded and detected crimes - [Crime data - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/about-us/how-we-do-it/crime-data/).

Detected crimes are those where an accused has been identified and there exists a sufficiency of evidence under Scots Law to justify consideration of criminal proceedings.

If you require any further assistance, please contact us quoting the reference above.

You can request a review of this response within the next 40 working days by [email](mailto:foi@scotland.police.uk) or by letter (Information Management - FOI, Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH). Requests must include the reason for your dissatisfaction.

If you remain dissatisfied following our review response, you can appeal to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner (OSIC) within 6 months - [online](https://www.foi.scot/appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@foi.scot) or by letter (OSIC, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, KY16 9DS).

Following an OSIC appeal, you can appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

This response will be added to our [Disclosure Log](http://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log) in seven days' time.

Every effort has been taken to ensure our response is as accessible as possible. If you require this response to be provided in an alternative format, please let us know.