| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-0968  Responded to: 12th June 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

Please accept our apologies for the delay in responding.

## I would like to request the following information on how many reports of spiking have been made to this force from 01/04/2022 to 01/04/2023. I am defining spiking according to the Police.Uk definition, which is “when someone puts alcohol or drugs into another person’s drink or body without their consent or knowledge.” I am also including ‘needle spiking’ in this definition. Could I have the data broken down by:

## The date on which the report was made

## The date on which the spiking was alleged to have occurred

## The type of location in which the spiking was alleged to have occurred (e.g. a nightclub; a residential home)

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.

In relation to crime data, I would first of all 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 refers (for further details please see [www.legislation.gov.uk](http://www.legislation.gov.uk))

The tables below provide recorded crime statistics for these two classifications.

All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information. Data have been extracted from Police Scotland systems using the date raised and are correct as at 28/4/2023.

**Recorded Crimes by month - Period: 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023**

| **Crime Classification /**  **Year & Month Reported** | **2022** | | | | | | | | | **2023** | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **A** | **M** | **J** | **J** | **A** | **S** | **O** | **N** | **D** | **J** | **F** | **M** |
| Administering a substance … | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Drugging | 13 | 25 | 10 | 23 | 25 | 23 | 25 | 19 | 25 | 25 | 19 | 21 |
| **Total** | **16** | **25** | **12** | **24** | **27** | **24** | **25** | **21** | **25** | **25** | **20** | **22** |

**Recorded Crimes by gap between reported date and latest committed date where known - Period: 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Reporting Gap** | **0-7 days** | **8-21 days** | **22 days to 1 year** | **> 1 year** | **Unknown** |
| **Cases** | 185 | 25 | 19 | 13 | 24 |

Please note that in some cases, an exact committed date is not known and instead a period is recorded - committed from and to - with two dates. Where this is the case, the latter of the two dates has been used to calculate the data above.

**Recorded Crimes by locus type where known/ recorded - Period: 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Locus Type** | **Cases** |
| Pub/ Bar/ Nightclub etc | 182 |
| Residential | 36 |
| Other Commercial/ Recreational | 16 |
| Public Space | 8 |
| Hotel/ Guesthouse | 7 |
| Other/ Not recorded | 17 |

## The outcome of the report (e.g. the perpetrator was convicted; the case was dropped etc)

Police Scotland does not hold information about prosecution decisions/ convictions and section 17 of the Act therefore applies. You may wish to contact the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscals Service (COPFS) -foi@copfs.gsi.gov.uk

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](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal), by [email](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) 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.