| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 25-0412Responded to: xx June 2025 |
| --- | --- |

Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## Can you please provide data on the number of reported spiking incidents across Scotland over the last five years, broken down on an annual basis?

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** | **2025** |
| Administering a substance for sexual purposes | 14 | 17 | 17 | 12 | 10 | 8 |
| Drugging | 20 | 196 | 184 | 119 | 122 | 41 |

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

## Please include both incidents involving drinks being drugged and also of spiking by injection – with a clear delineation between the two types of assault.

1. **Can you also please confirm the number of spiking incidents that resulted in sexual assault?**

Unfortunately, I estimate that it would cost well in excess of the current FOI cost threshold of £600 to process your request.

I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

To explain, all 760 crime reports would have to be individually reviewed, along with any associated records, to extract the necessary information to answer the questions posed.

1. **Can you confirm whether or not universities have emerged from the data as primary locations for spiking incidents to occur?**

As per the rationale above, the research necessary to establish any link to a University would also engage the cost exemption and I am therefore refusing to provide the information sought in terms of section 12(1) - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

To explain, the vast majority of recorded loci are in the form of a typical address only, ie number and street name. Where a building name/ landmark description are included, those appear to be, for the most part, bar/club type premises.

Each address would have to be individually researched to establish whether it fell within University grounds.

1. **Have any divisions/cities emerged as particular problem areas for spiking?**

A breakdown by Policing Division is provided below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Division** | **Recorded Crimes** |
| Argyll and West Dunbartonshire | 12 |
| Ayrshire | 13 |
| Dumfries and Galloway | 13 |
| Edinburgh | 168 |
| Fife | 41 |
| Forth Valley | 36 |
| Greater Glasgow | 240 |
| Highland and Islands | 58 |
| Lanarkshire | 27 |
| Lothian and Borders | 27 |
| North East | 35 |
| Renfrewshire and Inverclyde | 30 |
| Tayside | 60 |
| **Grand Total** | **760** |

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 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 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.