

Our Ref: IM-FOI-2022-0391
Date: 28th February 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.

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

I am a student [...] and I am making a 6 minute documentary about the spiking increase in Aberdeen last year and I was wondering if someone could answer a few of my questions? My answers can be answered via email, interview or recorded video, I do not mind, whatever is easiest and most covid-safe. The questions would go as follows:

- 1. How many cases were reported last year?**
- 2. Was this higher than usual?**

In response to your request, I must first of all clarify that crimes in Scotland are recorded in accordance with the Scottish Government Justice Department offence classifications, and there is no classification for 'spiking' specifically.

To be of assistance, 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)

Data in terms of these classifications for the 'North East' division of Police Scotland, broken down by area command is as follows:

North East Division Recorded Crimes	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Aberdeen North - AK		1	2	3		1	1
Aberdeen South - AU		1		1		1	46
Aberdeenshire North - AP	1		1		1	2	5
Aberdeenshire South - AV		1					1
Moray - AE	3	3	2				3
Total	4	6	5	4	1	4	56

Data is management information only - 2021 data is correct as at 27 January 2022, previous years correct as at 5 November 2021.

3. What did the Police do in response to these reports?

4. What do the Police recommend to stay safe from spiking?

Police Scotland continues to investigate reports of 'spiking' which, whether by adding drugs or alcohol to someone's drink, or by injection, without their consent, is a criminal offence and 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.

Should you require any further assistance please contact Information Management - Dundee on foidundee@scotland.pnn.police.uk 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 or by post to Information Management (Disclosure), Police Scotland, Clyde Gateway, 2 French Street, Dalmarnock, G40 4EH.

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 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.