| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 23-0848Responded to: 20th April 2023 |
| --- | --- |

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

## 1) How many incidents of drink-spiking were recorded by your force in the calendar year 2022? Please search for this data by means of keyword searches of MO codes/Investigation Summary Fields, using the terms 'spike', 'spiking', 'drink-spike', 'drink spiked', 'spiked drink', while checking to make sure that they don't refer to some other context (e.g. 'a spiked fence' or 'spiked hair').

## 2) Please tell me separately how many cases of so-called 'injection/needle spiking' were recorded in 2022. That is, reported incidents in which a perpetrator allegedly spiked someone by means of an injection, instead of using a pill.

## Please search for this data using keyword searches of MO codes/Investigation Summary Fields, focusing on the terms 'injection' and 'needle', while checking to make sure they do not refer to needles/injections in an unrelated context.

## 3a) Can you please provide a summary of the first five incidents of drink-spiking in 2022, giving the content of the free-text fields/MO codes/Investigation Summary Fields in full, while redacting any identifying information?

## 3b) Can you please provide a summary of the first five incidents of injection/needle-spiking in 2022, giving the content of the free-text fields/MO codes/Investigation Summary Fields in full, while redacting any identifying information?

Having considered your request in terms of the above Act, I regret to inform you that I am unable to provide you with the information you have requested, as it would prove too costly to do so within the context of the fee regulations.

As you may be aware the current cost threshold is £600 and I estimate that it would cost well in excess of this amount to process your request.

As such, and in terms of Section 16(4) of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 where Section 12(1) of the Act (Excessive Cost of Compliance) has been applied, this represents a refusal notice for the information sought.

By way of explanation, the crime recording systems used by Police Scotland have no facility which allows for us to search crime reports on the basis of presence of specific words or phrases, nor is it possible to conduct a force wide keyword search.

As such, the only way to establish whether the keywords mentioned in your request were present within a crime report, would be to carry out case by case assessment of all crime reports for the time period requested.

This would involve case by case assessment of a vast number of crime reports, and as such this is an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the fee regulations set out in the Act.To be of some assistance, you may be interested in a previous FOI response on this subject:-

[23-0490 - Crime Stats - Spiking (drugging/ administering substance sexual...) - by method - 2021-22 - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log/disclosure-log-2023/march/23-0490-crime-stats-spiking-drugging-administering-substance-sexual-by-method-2021-22/)

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](http://www.itspublicknowledge.info/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.