| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-0224  Responded to: 30 January 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## 1. The total number of spiking cases reported in Scotland from 2021 to 2023.

## 5. The number of arrests and charges related to spiking cases within this period

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 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.

To be of assistance, the tables below detail recorded and detected crimes for both classifications for the period covered by your request, broken down by month and by division.

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.

All statistics are provisional and should be treated as management information.

All data have been extracted from Police Scotland internal systems and are correct as of 8 January 2024.

The data was extracted using the Date Raised (recorded) and Date Detected (detected) fields.

The data does not include cases marked ‘no crime’ following investigation.

**Table 1 - Recorded Crimes - 1st January 2021 to 31st December 2023**

| **Year** | **Month** | **Drugging** | **Administering a substance for sexual Purposes** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2021 | Jan | 2 | 3 |
| Feb | 1 | 2 |
| Mar | 2 | 0 |
| Apr | 2 | 0 |
| May | 3 | 2 |
| Jul | 3 | 3 |
| Sep | 8 | 1 |
| Oct | 74 | 2 |
| Nov | 87 | 4 |
| Dec | 38 | 0 |
| 2022 | Jan | 24 | 1 |
| Feb | 24 | 0 |
| Mar | 28 | 6 |
| Apr | 13 | 3 |
| May | 20 | 0 |
| Jun | 9 | 2 |
| Jul | 22 | 1 |
| Aug | 22 | 2 |
| Sep | 17 | 1 |
| Oct | 16 | 0 |
| Nov | 15 | 0 |
| Dec | 16 | 1 |
| 2023 | Jan | 20 | 0 |
| Feb | 14 | 1 |
| Mar | 15 | 1 |
| Apr | 5 | 0 |
| May | 15 | 2 |
| Jun | 20 | 0 |
| Jul | 14 | 1 |
| Aug | 15 | 0 |
| Sep | 17 | 1 |
| Oct | 17 | 1 |
| Nov | 12 | 2 |
| Dec | 18 | 3 |
| Total |  | 628 | 46 |

**Table 2 - Detected Crimes - 1st January 2021 to 31st December 2023**

| **Year** | **Month** | **Drugging** | **Administering a substance for sexual Purposes** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2021 | Jan | 0 | 1 |
| Feb | 1 | 0 |
| Apr | 1 | 1 |
| May | 1 | 0 |
| Jun | 2 | 0 |
| Jul | 0 | 1 |
| Aug | 0 | 2 |
| Sep | 1 | 1 |
| Oct | 1 | 0 |
| Dec | 1 | 0 |
| 2022 | Jan | 6 | 1 |
| Feb | 1 | 0 |
| Mar | 2 | 1 |
| Apr | 2 | 0 |
| May | 1 | 0 |
| Jun | 1 | 0 |
| Jul | 1 | 0 |
| Oct | 1 | 0 |
| Nov | 1 | 0 |
| 2023 | Jan | 3 | 1 |
| Feb | 1 | 0 |
| May | 1 | 0 |
| Jul | 0 | 1 |
| Sep | 0 | 1 |
| Nov | 1 | 0 |
| Total |  | 30 | 11 |

## 2. A geographical breakdown of these cases.

Recorded crimes by Police Scotland Division. 1st January 2021 to 31st December 2023

| **Division** | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** | **Total** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Argyll and West Dunbartonshire |  | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| Ayrshire | 2 | 3 | 3 | 8 |
| Dumfries and Galloway | 1 | 11 | 4 | 16 |
| Edinburgh | 57 | 37 | 35 | 129 |
| Fife | 7 | 17 | 8 | 32 |
| Forth Valley | 13 | 20 | 13 | 46 |
| Greater Glasgow | 98 | 101 | 56 | 255 |
| Highland and Islands | 10 | 18 | 19 | 47 |
| Lanarkshire | 8 | 1 | 5 | 14 |
| Lothian and Borders | 4 | 5 | 9 | 18 |
| North East | 8 | 12 | 7 | 27 |
| Renfrewshire and Inverclyde | 3 | 6 | 16 | 25 |
| Tayside | 26 | 9 | 17 | 52 |
| Grand Total | 237 | 243 | 194 | 674 |

## 3. Information on the types of substances commonly used in these spiking incidents.

## 4. Details on the methods of spiking employed in these cases.

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, we would have to review each of the crime reports shown in the above tables to ascertain the specifics of your request such as forensic analysis and the MO - whether by injection or placing a substance in a person’s drink.

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.