| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 24-1021Responded to: 15th April 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information about spiking and needle spiking incidents in the UK.I am looking for information within the last three years (2024 so far, 2023 and 2022), so it would be helpful if the data could be broken down by year, please.

## 1. How many incidents of drink spiking have been reported to the force this year?

## 2. What gender was each person who reported the crime?

## 3. How many people were arrested as a result?

## 4. How many incidents of needle spiking have been reported to the force this year?

## 5. What gender was each person who reported the crime?

## 6. How many people were arrested as a result?

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.

After considering your request, 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) of the Act - Excessive Cost of Compliance.

By way of explanation there is no simple way to extract the data you require. We are unable to search crimes of this nature by the way the drug has been administered i.e., needle or drink. Nor can we search by details of the parties involved. In order to extract this data a manual search of each individual crime report would have to be carried out to distinguish relevance to your request. This is an exercise that would far exceed the cost threshold of the Act.

To be of assistance, the level of data we can provide is available in this recent FOI response which may be of interest:

[24-0224 - Crime stats - spiking (drugging/ administering substance) inc. details - 2021 To Date - Police Scotland](https://www.scotland.police.uk/access-to-information/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log/disclosure-log-2024/january/24-0224-crime-stats-spiking-drugging-administering-substance-inc-details-2021-to-date/)

## 7. How much money is spent/has been spent specifically on tackling spiking/needle spiking each year?

For this part of your request, the information sought is not held by Police Scotland and section 17 of the Act therefore applies.

By way of explanation Police Scotland does not record the total costs involved for any specific operation or investigation.

The nature of policing means that officers are deployed to wherever their services are most required.  The number of officers required throughout an investigation will fluctuate throughout an enquiry and officers involved in a particular investigation, or multiple investigations, can be redeployed to other duties at any time.

To explain further, officers are drawn from different areas of the Service, based on their skillsets, with the appropriate Division meeting the cost of their core time.

As such detailed records are not held in relation to the number of officers deployed, or to detail the specific costs of any particular piece of work undertaken by them during the time period specified.

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.