| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 23-1848  Responded to: 08 August 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## 1 - Please can you provide the total number of spiking allegations received by your force in the following calendar years: 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023.

## 2 - Please confirm how many of the allegations listed in your response to question 1 led to an arrest and/or charge.

## Note: Please include all drink and/or needle spiking allegations in your response.

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 been assaulted in this way to contact Police Scotland on 101 or in an emergency 999.

In relation to crime data, I would first of all 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 refers (for further details please see www.legislation.gov.uk)

The table below details recorded and detected crime data for these two classifications.

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 at 28 July 2023.

The Crimes are extracted using the Date Raised, and then selecting stats classification codes 101105 (Drugging) and 201823 (Administering a substance for sexual purposes).

|  | **2019** | | **2020** | | **2021** | | **2022** | | **2023** | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Crime/Offence** | **Recorded** | **Detected** | **Recorded** | **Detected** | **Recorded** | **Detected** | **Recorded** | **Detected** | **Recorded** | **Detected** |
| Drugging | 21 | 6 | 20 | 4 | 242 | 8 | 256 | 16 | 107 | 8 |
| Administering… | 23 | 7 | 14 | 9 | 17 | 6 | 17 | 2 | 4 | 1 |
| Total | 44 | 13 | 34 | 13 | 259 | 14 | 273 | 18 | 111 | 9 |

## 3 - Please provide a brief description of each allegation listed in your response to question 1

Having considered this question in terms of the 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 only way to provide an accurate response to your request would be to manually read each of the recorded crimes shown in the above table to establish a summary of the events.

Given there are 721 reports, each of which would have to be examined, this is an exercise which would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

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.