| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-1321  Responded to: xx May 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**Under the Freedom of Information Act, I would like to request the following information from your force:**

**• The number of people aged 18 or under who have been victim to either a confirmed or suspected spiking incident.**

**I would like this information broken down by the following, where that information is available:**

**• Age**

**• Gender**

**• Suspected method of spiking, e.g. vaping or drink or needle**

**• Whether the incident occurred at an place of education, for example school or college**

**• Whether the victim required any treatment at hospital**

**• Date of the incident**

**I would like this information for the past five years to the most recent date available, or as far back as possible given the cost and time parameters allowed under the FoI Act.**

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 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, we are unable to search crime reports based on the age of the victim at the time of the offence other than by case by case assessment of crime reports. ​

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/)

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.