| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 23-0490Responded to: 14 March 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## 1. How many reported cases of spiking were received by Police Scotland in the years 2021 and 2022 per month?

## 5. Which county had the most reported cases of spiking in the years 2021 and 2022?

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 tables at the end of this letter detail recorded 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 24th February 2023.

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

## 2. Of these reported cases, how many involved being spiked by injection?

## 6. Which county had the most reported cases of spiking by injection in the years 2021 and 2022?

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 examine each of the crime reports shown in the table below to establish whether an injection was recorded as the Modus Operandi - an exercise which I estimate would far exceed the cost limit set out in the Fees Regulations.

## 3. In the reported cases of spiking by injection, how many haven resulted in legal action being taken against the offender in the years 2021 and 2022.

## 4. In the reported cases of spiking by other methods, (i.e., drink spiking), how many haven resulted in legal action being taken against the offender in the years 2021 and 2022.

Police Scotland does not hold prosecution information. As such, in terms of section 17 of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, this represents a notice that the information you seek is not held by Police Scotland.

You may wish to contact the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscals Service (COPFS) which holds conviction information for Scotland. A request can be submitted to COPFS via email using the following address foi@copfs.gsi.gov.uk

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.

**Recorded Drugging and Administering a Substance for Sexual Purposes Crimes within Police Scotland Divisions.
1st January to 31st of December 2021 by month**

| **Division**  | **Crime Classification** | **J** | **F** | **M** | **A** | **M** | **J** | **J** | **A** | **S** | **O** | **N** | **D** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| North East | Drugging | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 0 |
| Administering a substance... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Tayside | Drugging | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 13 | 8 | 3 |
| Administering a substance... | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Highland & Islands | Drugging | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| Administering a substance... | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Forth Valley | Drugging | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 3 |
| Administering a substance... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Edinburgh | Drugging | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 35 | 20 | 10 |
| Administering a substance... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Lothian & Borders | Drugging | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 2 |
| Fife | Drugging | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Administering a substance... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Greater Glasgow | Drugging | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 30 | 51 | 24 |
| Administering a substance... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Ayrshire | Drugging | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Lanarkshire | Drugging | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Administering a substance... | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Argyll & West Dunbartonshire | Drugging | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Renfrewshire & Inverclyde | Drugging | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| Dumfries & Galloway | Drugging | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Administering a substance... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total |  | 5 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 10 | 89 | 107 | 50 |

**Recorded Drugging and Administering a Substance for Sexual Purposes Crimes within Police Scotland Divisions.
1st January to 31st of December 2022 by month**

| **Division**  | **Crime Classification** | **J** | **F** | **M** | **A** | **M** | **J** | **J** | **A** | **S** | **O** | **N** | **D** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| North East | Drugging | 5 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Administering a substance... | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Tayside | Drugging | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Administering a substance... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Highland & Islands | Drugging | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 4 |
| Administering a substance... | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Forth Valley | Drugging | 2 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 7 |
| Administering a substance... | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Edinburgh | Drugging | 5 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Administering a substance... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Lothian and Borders | Drugging | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| Fife | Drugging | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Administering a substance... | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Greater Glasgow | Drugging | 7 | 18 | 10 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 11 | 7 | 11 | 8 | 8 |
| Administering a substance... | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ayrshire | Drugging | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Lanarkshire | Drugging | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Administering a substance... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Argyll & West Dunbartonshire | Drugging | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Renfrewshire & Inverclyde | Drugging | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Dumfries & Galloway | Drugging | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Administering a substance... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total |  | 26 | 26 | 39 | 16 | 26 | 12 | 24 | 28 | 24 | 25 | 21 | 30 |