| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information Response Our reference: FOI 24-2133  Responded to: 06 September 2024 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

**Would you be able to assist in gathering some or all of the following data so we are able to better understand the current situation and climate:**

**Incidence and Nature of Vape Spiking:**

* **Could you provide data on the number of reported cases of vape spiking in the UK for the last three years?**
* **What are the most common substances found in reports of vape spiking incidents during this period?**

**Location and Context of Incidents:**

* **Where have these spiked vape products predominantly been found? Please provide data categorized by locations such as criminal homes, convenience shops, supermarkets, schools, or other venues.**

**Victim Demographics:**

* **Could you provide demographic details of the victims involved in these incidents? Specifically, I am interested in age, gender, and any other demographic data available that could indicate a pattern or targeted group.**

**Characteristics of Spiked Vape Products:**

* **What common characteristics have been identified in the spiked vape products? For instance, are they more often disposable, refillable, or of a certain puff count?**
* **Has there been any pattern in terms of the brand, model, or type of vape products that are most frequently tampered with?**

**Temporal Patterns:**

* **Is there a particular time of year when vape spiking incidents are more commonly reported?**

**Preventative Measures and Law Enforcement Response:**

* **What measures are being taken by law enforcement to prevent and respond to vape spiking incidents? Are there specific awareness campaigns or regulatory changes underway**

Police Scotland continues to investigate reports of 'spiking'.

Spiking, whether by adding drugs or alcohol to someone’s drink, or by injection, or any other method, 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.

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.

To explain, between 2021/22 and 2023/24 there were roughly 650 potentially relevant crimes recorded, each of which would have to be manually assessed.

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.