| Police Scotland logo | Freedom of Information ResponseOur reference: FOI 23-2389Responded to: 12 October 2023 |
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Your recent request for information is replicated below, together with our response.

## Please can you confirm:

## 1. In the Western Isles, the number of incidents of reported 'drink spiking' of any kind, including 'feloniously administering with intent to produce stupefaction' and 'administering a substance for sexual purpose' in the last 12 months as well as in the last three years.

## 3. In the Western Isles, the number of people charged with 'drink spiking' crimes of any kind, including 'feloniously administering with intent to produce stupefaction' and 'administering a substance for sexual purpose' in the last 12 months as well as in the last three years.

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

I can advise you that between 1 January 2018 and 30 September 2023 there were 3 recorded offences of Drugging. These were all recorded in 2023 and at this time none are recorded as being detected.

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 6 October 2023.

## 2. Of the above incidents, the number that were reported as occurring in the Uists - including Berneray, North Uist, Grimsay, South Uist and Eriskay, corresponding to HS6, HS7 and HS8 postcodes.

## 4. Of the above charges, how many pertained to the Uists - including Berneray, North Uist, Grimsay, South Uist and Eriskay, corresponding to HS6, HS7 and HS8 postcodes.

I can provide that none of the 3 recorded crimes were located within these postcodes.

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.