



Dear,

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request 2023.0595

On 05/06/2023 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

1. For the previous 5 calendar years please provide the total numbers of spiking incidents reported, plus any figures available on such reports for 2023 (specifying period). Please search for this data by means of keyword searches of MO codes, using the terms 'spike', 'spiking', 'spiked', and crimes alleged under the following Home Office codes:-
 - 005/10 Administering poison so as to endanger life
 - 005/24 Use of noxious substances or things to cause harm and intimidate
 - 008/02 Administering poison with intent to injure or annoy
 - 088/05 Administering a substance with intent

Please could you provide this data broken down by year.

- a) 2018
 - b) 2019
 - c) 2020
 - d) 2021
 - e) 2022
 - f) 2023 - latest available data
2. Can you please attach MO codes from Jan 1st 2023 for spiking-related offences? I accept redactions may need to be made to remove personal information.

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 s1, I can confirm that Gloucestershire Constabulary holds some relevant information.

Police Forces in the United Kingdom are routinely required to provide statistics to government bodies and the recording criteria is set nationally. However, the systems used for recording these figures are not generic, nor are the procedures used locally in capturing the data. It should be noted that for these reasons the figures given relate to information from the specific recording system of Gloucestershire Constabulary and should not be used for comparison purposes with any other response you receive.

Please note that our systems are designed to record information for policing purposes and the investigation of crime and not to extract statistical information. Accordingly whilst we endeavour to extract relevant data within the time limits of the Act, any data supplied is subject to these limitations.

I can confirm that the Crime Recording System has been searched for crimes recorded from 01/01/2018 to 31/05/2023 whereby one of the above offences was recorded and any of the terms 'spike', 'spiking' or 'spiked' were present in the MO.

The results are as follows:

Year	No. of Crimes
2018	10
2019	6
2020	6
2021	74
2022	87
2023	35
Total	218

The MOs of these crimes have been extracted and are disclosed in the attached document. Any redactions have been made under Section 40 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Gloucestershire Constabulary, when refusing to provide information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which: (a) states the fact, (b) specifies the exemption in question and (c) states (if not otherwise apparent) why the exemption applies.

With regard to the disclosure of the redacted information, the following exemption applies:

Section 40(2) Personal Information

Section 40(2) applies to third party personal data. This would not be released under the Freedom of Information Act unless there is a strong public interest. The disclosure of any information which could lead to the identification of an individual would breach the Data Protection Principles contained with the Data Protection Act 2018, namely the first principle which states that personal data shall be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to individuals

This exemption is absolute and class based therefore I am not required to apply either the public interest test or harm test in disclosure.

In accordance with the Act, this letter represents a Refusal Notice for this part of your request.

If you are not satisfied with this response or any actions taken in dealing with your request, you have the right to ask that we review your case under our internal procedure. Please note that a request for an internal review must be made within 20 working days of the response to your original request.

If you decide to request that such a review is undertaken and following this process you are still unsatisfied, you then have the right to direct your complaint to the Information Commissioner for consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Disclosure Officer
Gloucestershire Constabulary