



Your reference: N/A
Our reference: FOI_25_0218
E-mail: FOI
@gloucestershire.police.uk
Direct dial: 01452 754304
Postal Address: As above
Date: 13/03/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0218

On 20/02/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I would like to request the following information as part of my dissertation investigating how drink spiking differentiates from the United Kingdom and other countries.

Can I please have the following numbers relating to:

How many incidents of drink spiking were recorded by your force from the years 2019-2024?

What was the location of the drink spiking incidents from the years 2019-2024?

How many cases of drink spiking resulted in a court case/prosecution from the years 2019-2024?

How many cases from the years 2019-2024 were successful? I.e., was the offender charged?

Could I please have this information broken down into yearly?

Clarification was sought on 24/02/2025 advising the following:

When an Individual contacts the police and it is deemed to be a police matter, an incident will be created on the Incident Recording System. Please note that the word "incident" in Gloucestershire Constabulary's terminology refers to a type of record, not the event as a whole. If an offence is being reported (rather than a missing person for example) the "incident" will be assessed to determine if the offence falls within the Home Office Crime Recording Rules. If that incident is deemed to fall within the counting rules, a "crime" will be recorded on the Crime Recording System.

If you can confirm whether you would prefer a search conducted of the incident recording system, however this search may engage a Section 12 response and would not provide the rest of the information as requested.

If you are after information from the Crime Recording System, please can you refer to the below link of the Home Office Crime Recording Rules and provide me with the specific offences you require for your request?

Please note that we can only provide you with the police recorded outcomes, and conviction data is data held by the HM Courts.

A response to the clarification was received on 26/02/2025 with the following:
Thank you for reading my freedom of information request.

In terms of clarification, I am looking for the total number of incidents related to drink spiking that have occurred between 2019-2024 and so would like a search on the incident recording system.

I understand that this may mean the other questions will go unanswered due to Section 12 however the total number of incidents between the years 2019-2024 will still be very beneficial to my dissertation data.

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

Unfortunately our Incident Recording System is largely a free text and therefore its reporting function is limited. As such, a manual review would be required to establish if any incidents are relevant to your request regarding drink spikings, it is also worth noting that a free text search could be conducted using words such as 'spike', 'spiking' or 'spiked' however these are generic terms used in general discussions for example 'spiked hair', 'spiked fence' etc and therefore would still involve a manual review to determine if any of the incidents would be applicable to your request.

Please see below for suggestions on how you may be able to refine your request to come within the cost constraints of Section 12 of the Act.

Section 17(5) 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.

In relation to your request Section 12 applies.

Section 12(1) – Fee Regulations states:

Section 1(1) of the Act does not oblige a public authority to comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit. (As detailed in the Data Protection and Freedom of Information Fees Regulations of 2004)

The appropriate limit at the moment is £450 calculated at an hourly rate of £25 per hour for all staff time incurred in:

- i. Determining whether information is held
- ii. Locating it

- iii. Retrieving it
- iv. Extracting the information to be disclosed from the other information.

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

Section 16 – Duty to assist

By way of assistance a search of crime data could be conducted for specific offences which could potentially assist with the data you require. Below I have provided the link to the home office counting rules for you to view in order to identify relevant offences. A search can then be carried out with a filter on the MO freetext for specific terms such as 'spike' 'spiking' 'spiked'.

[Home Office Crime Recording Rules for frontline officers and staff - GOV.UK](#)

If this would be of use to you please submit a new FOI 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.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted via the following means:

Website - <https://ico.org.uk/>

Call their helpline - 0303 123 1113

Email - casework@ico.org.uk

Post –

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely,

Disclosure Officer
Gloucestershire Constabulary