



Your reference: N/A
Our reference: FOI_25_0988
E-mail: FOI
@gloucestershire.police.uk
Direct dial: 01452 754304
Postal Address: As above
Date: 14/10/2025

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_25_0988

On 10/10/2025 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I would like to submit a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) regarding reports of drink spiking.

Please could you provide the relevant information for the period between 1 January 2025 until 1 October 2025.

For each report concerning drink spiking, please could you provide the following:

1. A monthly breakdown of the numbers of drink spiking reports filed.
2. The age group of the person who filed the drink spiking report, categorised as follows: 11-20, 21-30, 31-40, 41-50, 51-60, 61+.
3. The gender of the person who filed the report.

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

Unfortunately there is no central register for this information and no way to retrieve the number of reports made to police by way of electronic searches.

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.

Gloucestershire Constabulary's Incident Recording System is largely a free text system 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 spiking.

As the constabulary records approximately 500 incidents per day, this would obviously take far longer than the 18 hours prescribed by the Freedom of Information Act.

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

As noted above, when an individual contacts the police and it's deemed to be a police matter, an incident will be created on the Incident Recording System. If that incident is deemed to fall within the Home Office Crime Recording Rules, a crime will be recorded on the Crime Recording System.

By way of assistance, a search of the Crime Recording System 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 Crime Recording Rules for you to view in order to identify relevant offences.

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

Once the relevant offences have been identified and searched for, a filter can be applied to the MO freetext for specific terms/keywords such as 'spike' 'spiking' 'spiked'. Again, please be advised that words such as these are generic terms used in general discussions and some manual review may still be required to determine if any of the search results would be applicable to your request. Depending on the number of records returned from a search, there is still a possibility that the Section 12 refusal could be engaged.

If a search of Crime data would be of use to you, you can submit a new 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