Gloucestershire Constabulary
Police Headquarters
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Quedgeley, Gloucester. GL2 2AN
www.gloucestershire.police.uk

Our reference: FOI_26_0922
E-mail: FOI @gloucestershire.police.uk
Direct dial: 01452 754304
Postal Address: As above
Date: 11/11/2026

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request FOI_26_0922

On 29/09/2026 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

I'm researching crimes related to spiking and, under the Freedom of Information Act, would be grateful if you could provide the disclosure requested. I understand that the offences listed are those most likely to be associated with acts of spiking, but please advise if there are others I may be unaware of and amend the list accordingly, if at all possible.

Please note I am not seeking identifiable personal information and am happy for any necessary data to be anonymised. I would also be grateful if you could consider, where keyword searches are mentioned, that I am asking for a count of records including the terms listed and not a manual review of each record. I understand the kind of caveats that apply to keyword searches and any analysis of disclosure would take into account the limitations of a keyword search in this context.

If you feel this request breaches the cost and time limits as it stands, please advise me as to how best to refine my questions to achieve the disclosure I hope to receive.

I'd be grateful if you could provide the force's response in an xlsx file.

I'd like to know:

1. Broken down for each financial year and offence between and including April 1 2022 and September 2026, please provide the following for the offences (a) 'Endangering life or causing harm by administering poison'; (b) 'Administering poison with intent to injure or annoy'; (c) 'Administering substance with intent to stupefy or overpower to engage in sexual activity'; (d) 'Administering a substance with intent to commit a sexual offence':

a. The total number of incidents recorded

b. The total number of crimes recorded, broken down by gender and age band of victim (where recorded) and recorded offence location (where the location is held in a structured field)

We are committed to being an anti-discriminatory organisation. This means not only acting in a non-discriminatory way, but addressing systemic inequalities, disadvantage and discrimination.

c. If your system permits keyword searching of MO or summary fields, please provide the following, or advise if such searches cannot be conducted without manual review: the number of crimes with the words ‘spiked’, ‘spike’ or ‘spiking’ in the MO summary

d. The number of crimes where the MO summary contains ‘needle’, ‘vape’, ‘drink’, ‘drug’ or ‘drugged’, broken down by each key word

e. The number of crime outcomes recorded, broken down by outcome, gender and age band of suspect (where recorded)

2. If it is possible within the cost and time limits of the FOI Act, please also provide an anonymised summary of the most recent two recorded crimes for each of the offence categories listed in previous questions

Clarification

On 6/10/2026, we sought clarification:

To help us identify the information you require I would be grateful if you would clarify the following information:

- Please can you confirm if you wish to obtain incident data, or crime data as you have asked for both within your request.

You responded:

Thanks for coming back to me for clarification. I am looking for both incidents and crimes, which I understand are recorded distinctly from each other (i.e. some reported incidents will not become a recorded crime). While this would be ideal in terms of disclosure (it would allow me to have an insight into the volume of calls/contacts reporting spiking incidents vs the amount of recorded crimes), if you feel it would bring the request into refusal territory, it’s fine to provide just crimes.

Further Clarification

On 10/11/2026, we sought further clarification:

To help us identify the information you require I would be grateful if you would clarify the following information:

- We can only provide crime information for ‘administer poison with intent to injure’, ‘administer poison with intent to endanger life’ and ‘administer substance with intent’.

You responded:

Are you asking if I’d be willing to accept a disclosure limited to the three crime descriptions you’ve provided? If so, that would be acceptable, thank you.

The request is now overdue and I’m compiling responses ahead of a fairly tight deadline so would be really grateful if you could come back to me as soon as possible with yours.

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

Following receipt of your request and the clarification responses received, a search was conducted of the Constabulary's crime recording system only.

Incidents

When an individual contacts the police, and it is deemed to be a police matter, an incident is 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 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.

As such, and following your instruction after clarification, a search was not conducted of the incident recording system so that engaging section 12 of the FOI Act was avoided.

Crimes

A search was conducted for crimes recorded between 01/04/2022 and 29/09/2026 under the following Home Office offences:

- 005/10 - Administering poison so as to endanger life
- 008/02 - Administering poison with intent to injure or annoy
- 088/05 - Administering a substance with intent

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.

Offences / Calendar Year	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Total
Administer poison w/i endanger life	10	5	15	13	4	47
Administer poison w/i injure	101	102	87	68	51	409
Administer substance with intent	5	5	4	4	3	21
Total	**116**	**112**	**106**	**85**	**58**	**477**

Victim Sex	Count
Female	308
Male	156
Not recorded	13
Total	**477**

Victim Age Band	Count
0-9	3
10-17	31
18-24	179
25-34	89
35-44	79
45-54	44
55-64	29
65+	14
Not recorded	9
Total	**477**

Local Policing Area (LPA)	Count
Cheltenham LPA	186
Cotswolds LPA	38
Forest LPA	30
Gloucester LPA	117
Stroud LPA	46
Tewkesbury LPA	19
Unclassified LPA	41
Total	**477**

Outcome	Count
1 - Charged/Summons	1
12 - Prosecution prevented - suspect too ill/deceased	1
14 - Evidential difficulties: suspect not identified; victim does not support further action	56
15 - Evidential difficulties: suspect identified; victim supports action	44
16 - Evidential difficulties: suspect identified; victim does not support action	50
18 - Investigation complete: no suspect identified	311

20 - Action undertaken by another body/agency	5
21 - Further investigation to support formal action not in the public interest	1
8 - Community Resolution	1
Not Assigned	7
Total	**477**

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