Gloucestershire Constabulary
Police Headquarters
No.1 Waterwells, Waterwells Drive
Quedgeley, Gloucester. GL2 2AN
www.gloucestershire.police.uk

Our reference: FOI_26_1086
E-mail: FOI @gloucestershire.police.uk
Direct dial: 01452 754304
Postal Address: As above
Date: 17/11/2026

Dear

Gloucestershire Constabulary Freedom of Information request for: 26_1086

On 13/11/2026 you sent an email constituting a request under the Freedom of Information Act asking the following:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (or Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, where applicable), I would like to request recorded crime and incident data regarding spiking offences reported to your police force over the last five complete calendar years (1 January 2021 to 31 December 2025) and any available figures for 2026 to date.

Please provide the following information:

1. Total Recorded Spiking Reports broken down annual and monthly

2. Spiking Method: (e.g., drink, needle/injection, food, vape, other/unspecified) broken down by calendar year

3. Victim Age Breakdown (Annual): Broken down by:

o Under 18

o 18–24

o 25–34

o 35–50

o Over 50

o Unknown / Not recorded

4. Victim and Suspect Gender (Annual)

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.

5. Alleged Venue / Location Type (Annual, Structured Fields Only): Broken down by calendar year (for example: pubs, bars, nightclubs, restaurants, private residences, and university/student accommodation where your system's location codes distinguish these).

6. Investigative Outcomes (Annual): (e.g., Charged/Summonsed, Evidential difficulties, Investigation complete – no suspect identified, or Still under investigation).

Format & Cost-Limit Guidance (Section 12 / Section 16):

- Please provide the data in a machine-readable spreadsheet format (.xlsx or .csv) with separate tabs or clearly labelled tables for each question.

- Section 16 Progressive Redaction Clause: If compiling all questions together would exceed the appropriate limit under Section 12, please redact or drop questions in reverse order of priority (specifically dropping Question 5 [venue type], then Question 2 [spiking method], then Questions 3–4 [demographics]) to ensure that Question 1 (annual/monthly totals) and Question 6 (outcomes) can be fulfilled within the statutory limit without issuing a blanket refusal.

Thank you for your time and assistance. I look forward to your response within the statutory 20 working days.

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 also note that incident data cannot be correlated to an outcome; please see the section on 'duty to assist' below with regards to asking for crime data, as for crime data we may be able to provide outcome information.

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