

**Force Disclosure Unit**

Wiltshire Police HQ

London Road

Devizes

Wiltshire

SN10 2DN

Tel 101 ext. 62005

www.wiltshire.police.ukdisclosure@wiltshire.police.uk

Via email

Date: 24/11/2021

Our ref: FOI 2021/925

Reply contact name is:

Dear

I write in connection with your request for information dated 08/11/2021 concerning reports / allegations of spiking and rapes.

I am required by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to handle all requests in a manner that is blind as to the identity and motives of the requestor. Any information released as a response to a request is regarded as being published and therefore in the public domain without caveat.

Following receipt of your request, research was conducted by the Business Intelligence team at Wiltshire Police.

Your request for information has now been considered and I am able to respond as follows.

You wrote:

-The number of reports/allegations from complainants claiming they were drugged and raped from January 2017 to the present day, giving a month-by-month breakdown and in each case specifying the sex and age of the complainant

-The number of reports/allegations from complainants claiming their drinks had been 'spiked' from January 2017 to the present day, giving a month-by-month breakdown and in each case specifying the sex and age of the complainant

-The number of reports/allegations from complainants claiming they had been 'spiked' with a needle, giving a month-by-month breakdown and in each case specifying the sex and age of the complainant

-the number of arrests and charges for all of the above and the age and sex of those charged.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Response

The information that you are requesting is not stored in a way which permits easy retrieval.

Whilst our crime recording system(s) are very sophisticated and we are able to search specific fields for particular data, we do not specifically store anywhere any flag or entry that designates that "spiking by injection" or "spiking of drinks" has been involved in a given crime.

This information would only be stored within the crime log of a given occurrence and the only way to locate such instances would be to access and read every crime log involved to determine whether spiking by injection played a contributing part and make a specific note of any details that met the criteria of your request.

Offences involving spiking have historically ended up being typically recorded under categories such as Violence Against the Person, Theft and Sexual Offences although in reality they could potentially fall under any particular crime category. Similarly, any incidents of people being drugged and raped or sexually assaulted would be recorded as sexual assault or rape as there is no separate crime classification for this specific type of allegation. To find out how many incidents of rape took place as a result of the victim being drugged, we would have to manually search through each rape allegation. Again, this would exceed the time / cost limit previously mentioned. I am absolutely confident that to locate, retrieve and extract the information you seek would by far exceed the time obligations upon this authority to comply, and in so doing would exceed the fees limits. This is set at £450 calculated at a flat rate of £25 per hour for those work activities comprising of confirming the information is held, locating it, retrieving it and extracting it.

Also under our section 16 duty to provide advice and assistance, you may find the following link to our website useful. This shows previous FOI responses that have been sent out and is likely to include information in respect of requests similar to your around spiking of drinks and directly by injection :-

<https://www.wiltshire.police.uk/foi-ai/af/accessing-information/>

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

The exemption applicable to the information requested is:

Section 12: Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit

- (1) Section 1(1) 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.

In accordance with section 17 of the Act, this letter represents a Refusal Notice for this particular request.

I am satisfied that all the relevant information has been passed to me and been considered in the light of your request within the time constraints applicable under the legislation.

Wiltshire Police would like to thank you for the interest that you have shown in the Force.

Yours sincerely

Force Disclosure Decision Maker

Wiltshire Police offers a re-examination of your case under its review procedure.



Force Disclosure Unit

Wiltshire Police HQ, London Road, Devizes, Wiltshire SN10 2DN
Telephone 101 ext 62005

Freedom of Information Request Appeals Procedure

1. Who Can Ask for a Review

Any person who has requested information from Wiltshire Police, which has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act, is entitled to complain and request an internal review, if they are dissatisfied with the response they received.

2. How to Request a Review

Requests for review of a Freedom of Information request must be made in writing to the:
Force Disclosure Unit
Wiltshire Police Headquarters,
London Road, Devizes,
Wiltshire,
SN10 2DN

Email at disclosure@wiltshire.police.uk.

The reference number, date of the request and details of why the review is being requested must be included. Requests for review should be brought to the attention of the Force Disclosure Unit within 20 working days of the Force's response to the original FoI request.

3. Review Procedure

Receipt of a request for review will be acknowledged in writing to include confirmation of the reasons for the review. The review will be conducted by another Decision Maker, who is independent from the original Decision Maker. The Force Disclosure Unit will set a target date for a response. The response will be made as soon as is practicable with the intention to complete the review within twenty working days. In more complex cases the review may take up to 40 working days.

The Independent Decision Maker will conduct a review of the handling of the request for information and of decisions taken, including decisions taken about where the public interest lies in respect of exempt information where applicable. The review enables a re-evaluation of the case, taking into account the matters raised by the complaint.

4. Conclusion of the Appeal

On completion of the review the Independent Decision Maker will reply to the complainant with the result of the review. If the complainant is still dissatisfied following the review they should

contact the Information Commissioner to make an appeal. The Information Commissioner can be contacted via the following details:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 01625 545 700
Fax: 01625 524 510
Email: mail@ico.gsi.gov.uk

Please note that the ICO's offices will be closed for the foreseeable future and are therefore unable to receive correspondence via post.

If you should wish you contact them, please visit <https://ico.org.uk/global/contact-us/>