

**Force Disclosure Unit**

Wiltshire Police HQ

London Road

Devizes

Wiltshire

SN10 2DN

Tel 101 ext 62005

[www.wiltshire.police.uk](http://www.wiltshire.police.uk)[disclosure@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:disclosure@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk)

XXXXXX – by E mail

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2021 / 872

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2021 concerning drink and injection spiking offences.

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.

Your request for information has now been considered and – having consulted our Business Performance Team - I am now able to respond as follows.

**You wrote (and Our Response) :**

I am writing to request information concerning drink spiking. My request concerns the entire area covered by your force.

1. Please perform a keyword search for the terms 'spiked drink', 'drink spiking', 'drinks spiking', 'drinks lacing', 'injection spiking' and 'spiking by injection' in the case notes or MO and present them in a simple table for the calendar years 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021.

For clarity, the above terms relate to the act of putting alcohol or drugs in a person's drink or injecting them with drugs without the person's knowledge or permission.

This request has previously been made of and was fulfilled by the Metropolitan Police for the years 2015-2017 and this methodology has been widely successful with other police departments.

2. Please could you also provide me with a breakdown of the number of people charged concerning the above offences over the calendar years 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021.

3. Could you also provide a further breakdown of the number of times these cases have been linked to sexual offences?

Please can I receive this data in a spreadsheet



## Our Response

The following table provides you with answers to each of your questions :-

| Reported Year | Crime Count | Charged | Sexual Offences |
|---------------|-------------|---------|-----------------|
| 2018          | 1           | 0       | 1               |
| 2019          | 1           | 0       | 0               |
| 2020          | 2           | 0       | 1               |
| 2021          | 5           | 0       | 3               |

## Please Note

It needs to be noted that unless an applicant specifically requests a wildcard or free-text search in their request we do not usually provide answers using this search method and certainly do not put such results freely into the public domain.

Wildcard or free-text searches are notoriously unreliable for a number of reasons, such as (but not limited to the following) :-

- a) Searches require keywords or phrases to be spelt correctly in order for them to be returned in any searches (eg if the word drink was spelt as “drik” it would not be returned in any search results
- b) We are only able to conduct searches of this nature on the summary description of the offence (which comprises something like 200 characters) and not on the whole occurrence investigation log. Therefore if the summary does not state that a drink was spiked (per-se) and that detail was only contained within the much longer investigation log, then it – again – would not be returned in any searches undertaken.

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,

Nick Penny  
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.pnn.police.uk](mailto:disclosure@wiltshire.pnn.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 Fol 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](mailto:mail@ico.gsi.gov.uk)