

**Force Disclosure Unit**

Wiltshire Police HQ

London Road

Devizes

Wiltshire

SN10 2DN

Tel 101 ext 62005

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

XXXXXX – by E Mail

Date: 12th February 2025

Your ref: FOI

Our ref: FOI 2025 / 137

Reply contact name is: Nick Penny

Dear XXXXXX,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 3rd February 2025 concerning Drink Spiking.

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

Please provide the relevant information for the period between 1 January 2022 until this request is processed.

Please could you provide the following:

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

- a) The date the drink spiking report was filed
- b) The specific location (for example: address of the establishment)
- c) The age of the person who filed the drink spiking report (if you are unable to provide the exact age, please could you provide me with age groups. For example: 18-24, 25-49, 50-64, 65+)
- d) Gender of the victim who filed the report
- e) Whether the drink spiking report led to an investigation and/or a charge



Our Response

Questions A and B of your request are exempt from a response under Section 40 of the FOIA concerning Personal Information.

Section 40 is an absolute exemption and there is no need for us to provide a Public Interest or Harm Test.

There is also no obligation an Authority to provide any reasons when using a Section 40 exemption, however in this case I am happy to provide my rationale.

- Any disclosure under FOI is a disclosure to the world not simply the applicant of that request.
- Were we do provide the location and specific date when a spiking incident had been reported, it could lead an individual – with information either known to them or already in the public domain – to be able to identify the victim of a given incident.
- In addition, if we were to disclose those particulars of a reported crime or incident, it would demonstrate to the perpetrator (or indeed a witness) whether an offence that had been committed had been formally reported or not.

The remainder of the information you require is provided below.

For the time period you require there have been 47 instances of alleged spiking reported to Wiltshire Police under the following 3 different Home Office crime categories :-

- Cause administer poison with intent to injure / aggrieve / annoy
- Administering poison with intent to injure or annoy
- Administering poison so as to endanger life

By year and gender these have been

Year	Female	Male	Total
2022	17	3	20
2023	12	2	14
2024	8	3	11
2025	1	1	2
Grand Total	38	9	47

By year and age group these have been

Year	18-24	25-49	50-64	65+	Unknown	under 18	Total
2022	9	7	2		1	1	20
2023	5	7		1		1	14
2024	2	7	2				11
2025		2					2
Grand Total	16	23	4	1	1	2	47

By year the outcomes recorded have been as follows

Outcome	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total
15: Police - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties	2				2
16: Victim declines/withdraws support - named suspect identified	1	1			2
18: Investigation complete no suspect identified	16	11	6	1	34
Cancelled/transferred	1	2	2		5
New (current / live investigations)			3	1	4
Grand Total	20	14	11	2	47

It should be noted that ALL reported incidents of spiking are investigated.

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 40: Personal Information

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,

Nick Penny
Disclosure Decision Maker

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



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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.

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