

11 March 2025

FOI Ref 17913

**Request - You asked us the following:**

Thank you for your response to me Freedom of Information request (ref:17769).

After seeing your advice on how I could obtain data relating to drink spiking reports, I would like to refine my request in accordance.

I would like to submit a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) regarding reports under the following offences:

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

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

1. For any of the offences mentioned above (088/05, 008/02, 005/10) please could you provide the following:
  - a. A yearly breakdown of the numbers of reports under any of these offences (088/05, 008/02, 005/10).
  - b. For each year, could you please provide the age of the person who filed a report under any of these offences (088/05, 008/02, 005/10) and provide a breakdown by the following age groups: 11-20, 21-30, 31-40, 41-50, 51-60, 61+.
  - c. Gender of the victim who filed a report under any of these offences (088/05, 008/02, 005/10) .
  - d. Whether the report under any of these offences (088/05, 008/02, 005/10) led to an investigation and/or a charge.

We received your request on 03/03/2025 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Staffordshire Police's response to your enquiry is as follows:

**Staffordshire Police holds the requested information.**

- Thank you for your response to me Freedom of Information request (ref:17769).
- After seeing your advice on how I could obtain data relating to drink spiking reports, I would like to refine my request in accordance.



- I would like to submit a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) regarding reports under the following offences:
- 088/05 – Administering a substance with intent
- 008/02 – Administering poison with intent to injure or annoy
- 005/10 – Administering poison so as to endanger life
- Please could you provide the relevant information for the period between 1 January 2022 until this request is processed.
- 1. For any of the offences mentioned above (088/05, 008/02, 005/10) please could you provide the following:
  - a. A yearly breakdown of the numbers of reports under any of these offences (088/05, 008/02, 005/10). – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled ‘FOI 17913 Refinement of FOI 17769 Drink Spiking Data’.**
  - b. For each year, could you please provide the age of the person who filed a report under any of these offences (088/05, 008/02, 005/10) and provide a breakdown by the following age groups: 11-20, 21-30, 31-40, 41-50, 51-60, 61+. – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled ‘FOI 17913 Refinement of FOI 17769 Drink Spiking Data’.**
  - c. Gender of the victim who filed a report under any of these offences (088/05, 008/02, 005/10) – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled ‘FOI 17913 Refinement of FOI 17769 Drink Spiking Data’.**
  - d. Whether the report under any of these offences (088/05, 008/02, 005/10) led to an investigation and/or a charge. – **Disclosed, please see the accompanying file titled ‘FOI 17913 Refinement of FOI 17769 Drink Spiking Data’.**

Please be advised that a search has been carried out on our crime recording database for the three listed offences above in the time period requested up to 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025, when this request was received. Please note that the data provided may not specifically relate to ‘drink’ spiking.

Please note that there are offences that are still being investigated so with regard to these cases we are citing Section 30(1)(a)(b) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Investigations conducted by Public Authorities. These offences are included in the overall figures for question 1a but have been removed with regard to any further breakdown.

Please note that this data has been provided to the best of our ability, subject to the limitation of current recording protocols and systems/software. Additional offences may have been recorded during these timescales but are awaiting finalisation and input onto these systems and would not be present within this dataset.

Every effort is made to ensure that the data presented is accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that this has been extracted from multiple sources, developed for specific policing purposes, for which data extraction methods have not been specifically designed to directly correlate with the terminology of this request. Therefore, the data presented is subject to the inaccuracies and idiosyncrasies inherent in any large-scale recording system.

As a consequence, care should be taken in the interpretation and presentation of this data, so as to not misrepresent the whole or any part of the data disclosed.

**The following exemption has been applied:**

In accordance with Section 17(1) of the Freedom of Information Act, this letter represents a refusal notice for this particular request.

- Section 30(1)(a)(b) – Criminal Investigations

Section 30 is qualified and class based and, as such, we are required to apply the public interest test.

**Public Interest Test**

**Factors favouring disclosure under Section 30(1)(a)(b)**

Disclosure of the information would improve the public's knowledge and understanding of the investigatory process and, as all police investigations are publicly funded, would show how public funds are being spent.

**Factors favouring non-disclosure under Section 30(1)(a)(b)**

Disclosure of the requested information would prejudice how investigations are carried out in the future. Staffordshire Police is charged with enforcing the law, preventing and detecting crime and protecting the communities we serve. Any release of information relating to ongoing investigations could prejudice and undermine those investigations. The prevention and detection of such matters could therefore be hindered and therefore risk interference with evidence, which could have detrimental impact on future investigations. In addition, the right to a fair trial could be undermined.

**Balance test**

Disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act is a release of information to the world in general and not an individual applicant. Having considered the public interest factors we are required to determine whether on balance the factors favouring disclosure outweigh those which are against disclosure. It is our view that the factors favouring disclosure do not outweigh those which favour non-disclosure.

Please be advised that all Freedom of Information request responses are published on the Staffordshire Police website although personal details are not included.

**Freedom of Information Request Appeals Procedure**

**1. Who Can Ask for a Review**

Any person who has requested information from Staffordshire 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 within two months of the date of receipt of this email, and should be addressed to:



STAFFORDSHIRE  
**POLICE**

[foi@staffordshire.police.uk](mailto:foi@staffordshire.police.uk)

Or by Post to:

Central Disclosure Unit  
Staffordshire Police HQ  
PO Box 3167  
Stafford  
ST16 9JZ

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 Central Disclosure Unit within two months of the Force's response to the original FOI request.

### **3. Review Procedure**

Receipt of a request for review will be acknowledged in writing. The review will be conducted by another Decision Maker who is independent from the original Decision Maker. The Central 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 20 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

ICO Website for complaints link: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/foi-and-eir-complaints/foi-and-eir-complaints/>

Freedom of Information  
Central Disclosure Unit