

27 August 2026

FOI Ref 23304

Request - You asked Staffordshire Police (SP) the following:

I am requesting information relating to reports of drink spiking made to your force.

Please provide the following information for each calendar year 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025, and separately for 2026 year-to-date (up to the most recent date for which data are available):

1. The total number of reports/allegations of drink spiking recorded by your force in each year.
2. Of those reports, the number where the recorded age of the alleged victim was between 18 and 21 inclusive(i.e. aged 18, 19, 20 or 21), broken down by year and the gender of those victims.
3. Of the reports involving victims aged 18–21, the number that resulted in a crime being recorded, broken down by year.
4. For all drink-spiking reports, the number that resulted in a crime being recorded, broken down by year.
5. For 2026 year-to-date, please provide the equivalent figures for the period from 1 January 2026 to the latest date for which data are available.

For clarity, by “drink spiking” I mean reports/allegations that a substance was deliberately added to a person's drink without their knowledge or consent. Please include cases recorded under any relevant crime, incident, intelligence or other recording system where your force has identified the allegation as drink spiking.

If your systems distinguish between drink spiking and other forms of spiking (for example, needle spiking, food spiking or spiking via another route), please provide the drink-spiking figures separately and do not include these other forms unless they were specifically recorded as involving a drink.

If the information is held in a form that distinguishes between an allegation/report and a formally recorded crime, please provide both figures where possible.

SP received your request on 25/08/2026 and have processed this under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

SP's response to your enquiry is as follows:

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

The following exemption has been applied:

- Section 12(1) where the cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit.

Section 12(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 prescribed limit'.

The above information has been withheld for the following reasons:

There is no method by which SP can readily retrieve information from local police systems to answer parts of this request. There is no specific incident type that is recorded specifically for 'drink spiking' or any form of 'spiking'. Additionally, when recorded as a crime, this type of offence would form one of several offences under the stats classification of 'Administering poison etc with intent to injure or annoy', 'Administering poison etc so as to endanger life or inflict GBH' or 'Administering a substance with intent'.

For the time period requested, there have been in excess of 700 occurrences recorded against one of the above offence types. In order to ascertain the type of spiking that has occurred namely 'drink spiking', the record for each offence would require a manual review. To extract this data would therefore require a very labour-intensive manual trawl through each record.

From dip sampling, it has been estimated that it would take approximately 3 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to over 35 hours. To achieve this task would therefore exceed the 18-hour time and cost threshold of the FOI Act by a considerable margin.

Advice and assistance

Section 16 of the Act places an obligation upon the Authority to provide advice and assistance, to comply with this obligation please see below.

If you were to refine your request, data could be provided for the following offences occurring within the time period requested, broken down by year:

- Administering poison etc so as to endanger life or inflict GBH
- Administering poison etc with intent to injure or annoy
- Administering a substance with intent

Data can also be provided for the number of victims aged between 18 and 21 along with gender broken down for each year.

Please be advised that the above offences may not solely relate to drink spiking and may include other forms of spiking, there is no way to separate these other than to carry out a manual trawl.

All Freedom of Information request responses are published on the SP 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 SP, 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.



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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:

IAT@staffordshire.police.uk

Or by Post to:

Information Access Team
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 Information Access Team 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 a supervisor who is independent from the original Decision Maker. The Information Access Team 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 Supervisor 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, considering the matters raised by the complaint.

4. Conclusion of the Appeal

On completion of the review the Independent Supervisor will reply to the appellant with the result of the review. If the appellant 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 link: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/foi-and-eir-complaints/foi-and-eir-complaints/>

Freedom of Information
Information Access Team