

27 March 2026

FOI Ref 22697

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

1) Total cases

Please state the total number of offences that were reported to the police as alleged spiking (including needling) for the following calendar years – 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025.

[Note - by spiking we refer to administering a substance without consent as it has been commonly understood under the Offences Against the Person Act 1861 and as it will now be considered under the Crime and Policing Bill 2025.]

- Please provide the breakdown of the suspects and victims by gender
- Please provide the breakdown of victim ages according to these age groups: under 18, 18-24, 25-34, 35-50, over 50
- Please provide the breakdown of spiking method (ie. substance added to beverage, needle/injection, food spiking etc)
- Please provide the breakdown of the type of venue of the alleged drink spiking (ie. pub, bar, restaurant, private residence, university accommodation etc)
- Please provide the breakdown of the local authority where the incidents occurred

2) Outcome

For the following calendar years – 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 – please provide this information:

- Total number of reported alleged drink spiking offences that were investigated by the police
- Total number of offences that were referred to the Crown Prosecution Service
- Total number of offences that were prosecuted
- Please provide the breakdown of the outcome of prosecuted cases

3) Most recent year

For the calendar year 2025, please provide this information:

- The average time between the alleged drink spiking incident and when the incident was reported to the police
- Please state the name of any institutions where there have been more than five reported alleged drink spiking offences, as well as the total number of alleged drink spiking offences at these venues.
- Please state the number of incidents of fraud reported where victims believe they were spiked beforehand

SP received your request on 23/03/2026 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 our systems to answer this request. This type of offence would form one of several offences recorded under the offence type of 'Administering poison with intent to injure or annoy', 'Administering poison as to endanger life' or 'Administering substance with intent'. For the time period requested, there have been in excess of 700 occurrences recorded against one or other of the above offence types. In order to ascertain the type of spiking that has occurred, the record for each offence would require a manual review. Additionally, to obtain data regarding the average time between the alleged spiking incident and when the incident was reported to the police would again require a manual trawl of each case. 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 8 minutes to review each record to answer this request, this would equate to over 93 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.

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

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

Data could also be provided for the gender and age of the victim/suspect along with the type of location and the LPT (Local Policing Team) location per year.

Data could also be provided for the name of any institutions where there have been more than five reported alleged spiking offences, as well as the total number of alleged spiking offences at these venues.

Staffordshire Police do not hold conviction data. We would advise that you approach the Government HM Courts & Tribunals service website.



STAFFORDSHIRE
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Please find below links to previously disclosed HMCTS data and details upon how to submit a further Freedom of Information request to the Government HM Courts and Tribunals Service for this information. Make an FOI request - [how to make a request](#).

Check [our previous releases](#) to see if we've already answered your question - [our previous releases](#)

Make a new request by using the details below.

FOI requests

Disclosure Team

Postal Point 10.38, Floor 10

102 Petty France

London

SW1H 9AJ

United Kingdom

Email

data.access@justice.gov.uk

SP is unable to provide data regarding fraud offences as the majority of these are now recorded by Report Fraud. Report Fraud is the national centre responsible for receiving, recording and disseminating reports of fraud.

Report Fraud is handled by the City of London Police. You may seek the information you are requesting by contacting their FOI department at <https://www.cityoflondon.police.uk/foi-ai/af/accessing-information/>

Please be advised that 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.

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



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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