

19th November 2021

**Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20212240**

**REQUEST**

*I am currently investigating reports of drink spiking and spiking by injection across the UK. I am writing to make an open request for all the information to which I am entitled under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please could you provide the following:*

- 1. How many reports of drink spiking have been reported to South Yorkshire Police in the past 5 years? Please separate into (a) 2017 (b) 2018 (c) 2019 (d) 2020 and (e) 2021 (January - October )*
- 2. How many reports of spiking by injection been reported to South Yorkshire Police in the past 5 years? Please separate into (a) 2017 (b) 2018 (c) 2019 (d) 2020 and (e) 2021 (January - October )*
- 3. For each report could you please provide the (a) age (b) gender (c) ethnicity of the victim.*
- 4. For each report could you please provide the location of the allegation.*
- 5. For each report could you please provide the outcome type of the investigation.*

**RESPONSE**

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires South Yorkshire 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 following exemption applies to the disclosure of the information:

**Section 12 – Exemption where cost of compliance exceeds appropriate limit**

Due to a change in the Crime Recording Systems it has been determined it would take an excessive amount of time to obtain all the data necessary to answer the request in full. The Data requested prior to Dec 2017 is held on an historic system no longer in use and cannot be readily extracted. Manual reviews would be required to find the data within the system, bringing cost into play. Therefore this data cannot be located or retrieved in a readily retrievable format within cost, and as such your request triggers the s12 cost exemption.

Further we cannot distinguish drink spiking/spiking by injection, it is not a mandatory requirement on the record and again would require a manual review of all the Offence records held to see if this type detail was inputted in the free text sections in the first instance.

The Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 provide that the cost limit for non-central government public authorities is £450. This must be calculated at the rate of £25 per hour, providing an effective time limit of 18 hours.

Guidance from the Information Commissioner to public authorities is that where one part of a request is reasonably estimated to exceed the appropriate limit then the authority is not obliged to consider or comply with the remainder of the request up to the point at which the appropriate limit has been reached. Please note point 30 of the below link:-

[https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1199/costs\\_of\\_compliance\\_exceeds\\_appropriate\\_limit.pdf](https://ico.org.uk/media/for-organisations/documents/1199/costs_of_compliance_exceeds_appropriate_limit.pdf)

**Although excess cost removes the force's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill, I have supplied information, relative to your request, retrieved or available before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded. I trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request neither does it bind South Yorkshire Police to any commitment that it will release information in such a manner in the future .**

However, 4.12.17 to date – The Crime Management Data Returns Administrator has supplied the following data which was retrieved prior. The Connect System is used to record complaints or allegations of those matters, which the Home Office specify should be recorded as 'crime'.

They provided me with the enclosed spreadsheet and the following explanation of their search criteria:

*Please see the attached datasets in relation to FOI request **LH 20212240**.*

*Please note the following -*

- *We cannot distinguish drink spiking/spiking by injection (SEE ABOVE)*
- *Ethnicity is NOT a mandatory field.*
- *Location is NOT a mandatory field.*

*We have only provided data that was recorded on the CONNECT recording system. I've provided volumes based on Ethnic Appearance and also Self-defined Ethnicity.*

*Please note that this data has been extracted from a live system and as such details/volumes may be subject to change in the future.*

*I have provided recorded crime data from the CONNECT recording system based on creation date, and captured via our baseline 'spiking query' which is based on the following criteria:*

- *MO Desc 3 being equal to 'Drink Interfered With - Spiked'*

*OR*

- *Initial MO contains any "%spiking%; %drink-spike%; %drink spiked%; %spiked drink%; %needle spiking%; %spiked by needle%; %injection spiking%; %spiked by injection%; %spiking by injection%; %spiked via injection%; %spiked via needle%".*

*OR*

- *MO Desc 1 equal to "Means employed" AND MO Desc 2 equal to "Victim" AND MO Desc 3 equal to "Drugged".*

*Offence outcomes are based on the outcome of the overall offence and not outcomes per individual suspect and the volumes provided are based on the crimes recorded in that period, not the number of outcomes recorded in that period.*