



## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



**Request Number:** F-2017-03063

**Keyword:** Crime

**Subject:** Drink Spiking

### Request and Answer:

Your request for information has now been considered. In respect of Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) I can confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) does hold information to which your request relates.

### Request

Can you please tell me the number of drink-spiking's reported to you between 1998-2016? Can you please break each year into bi-annual periods (January 1st-June 30th, July 1st-December 31st)?

Regarding my FOI on drink-spiking, please see the information below:

A number of Police Force Areas have had difficulty interpreting what I meant by 'SPI code'. It turns out that is something specific to Greater Manchester Police's system. I apologise for causing this confusion.

Please can you follow the lead of Merseyside Police in checking not only for the Home Office crime codes cited in my original email, but also for general, drink-spiking keywords. Here is the method they used in their response:

There is no 'flag' or qualifier code such as "SPI" in use in Merseyside Police to denote that a Crime record relates to drink spiking. Data has therefore been retrieved by means of keyword searches, looking for Crime records which contain a reference to "spike" or "spiking". Records have been discounted where the term is used in some other context (e.g. "a spiked fence", "spiked hair"). It should be noted, however, that in the majority of reported cases it was not possible to confirm that drink spiking had actually occurred.

In addition, multiple Police Force Areas have updated their systems in the last decade, making access to historical data burdensome. If you are having a similar problem, please supply data from 2004-2016 instead of from 1998-2016, as originally asked.

A request to Greater Manchester Police posted on WhatDoTheyKnow.com in 2013 was answered using the following search terms:

"Search terms used were – the means code of “SPI” (Drink Spike) and the Home Office Codes 005/10 (Administering poison so as to endanger life) 008/02 (Administering poison with intent to injure or annoy) and 088/05 (Administering a substance with intent)." Source

Please replicate this search method for comparability. No nationwide dataset exists on this important issue; however, with your help I intend to build one, which will be made freely accessible to researchers looking to analyse the factors associated with this type of criminal behaviour.

### **Answer**

Records are available from 1st April 2007. Please see table below showing the number of offences of administering poison to aggrieve, administering a substance with sexual intent and administering drugs to obtain intercourse recorded between 1st April 2007 and 15th December 2017 where it has been recorded that the victim's drink had been was 'spiked'. This includes offence classification 8N Assault with Injury – administering poison with intent to injure or annoy and 88C Other Miscellaneous Sexual Offences – administering a substance with intent.

This information is based on data extracted from a live system and may be subject to change. Please note that figures within the current financial year (i.e. from 1st April 2017) are provisional and will be subject to change.

It is dependent on the information having been input into the system in such a way as to identify those records that are relevant.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number</b>
<b>2007</b>	<b>0</b>
April - December	0
<b>2008</b>	<b>2</b>
January - June	1
July - December	1
<b>2009</b>	<b>3</b>
January - June	3
July - December	0
<b>2010</b>	<b>1</b>
January - June	1
July - December	0
<b>2011</b>	<b>1</b>
January - June	0
July - December	1
<b>2012</b>	<b>3</b>
January - June	2
July - December	1
<b>2013</b>	<b>8</b>
January - June	3
July - December	5
<b>2014</b>	<b>8</b>
January - June	4
July - December	4
<b>2015</b>	<b>7</b>
January - June	3
July - December	4
<b>2016</b>	<b>11</b>

January - June	7
July - December	4
<b>2017</b>	<b>8</b>
January - June	6
July - December	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>

If you have any queries regarding your request or the decision please do not hesitate to contact me on 028 9070 0164. When contacting the Freedom of Information Team, please quote the reference number listed at the beginning of this letter.

If you are dissatisfied in any way with the handling of your request, you have the right to request a review. You should do this as soon as possible or in any case within two months of the date of issue of this letter. In the event that you require a review to be undertaken, you can do so by writing to the Head of Freedom of Information, PSNI Headquarters, 65 Knock Road, Belfast, BT5 6LE or by emailing [foi@psni.pnn.police.uk](mailto:foi@psni.pnn.police.uk).

If following an internal review, carried out by an independent decision maker, you were to remain dissatisfied in any way with the handling of the request you may make a complaint, under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to the Information Commissioner's Office and ask that they investigate whether the PSNI has complied with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act. You can write to the Information Commissioner at Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. In most circumstances the Information Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out, however the Commissioner has the option to investigate the matter at his discretion.

Please be advised that PSNI replies under Freedom of Information may be released into the public domain via our website @ [www.psni.police.uk](http://www.psni.police.uk)

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.