

19th November 2021

**Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20212189**

**REQUEST**

***My request is regarding victims coming forward about drinks being spiked.***

***For the period between (and including) September 2017 and September 2021, could you please specify:***

- ***The number of recorded crimes mentioning the word “drinks spiking”***
- ***The category of the crime – eg, assault, rape, burglary, robbery, etc***
- ***A brief note of the nature of the crime – ie, what happened?***
- ***The date of each crime***
- ***The outcome of each crime – eg, charge, no further action, etc***
- ***The gender and age group of the victim***

**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.

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 **20212189**. When conducting an Initial MO search using specifically "drinks spiking" this brings back no matching results. This may be due to the tense the MO is written in, terminology and other factors. I have therefore provided data based on our current method of identifying these offences, based on the criteria below. As the requester is just asking about drink spiking I have removed the keywords relating to injection spiking from the search.*

*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%".*

*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.*