

30 November 2021

Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20212359

REQUEST

1. *The number of reports/allegations from complainants claiming they were drugged and raped from January 2017 to the present day, giving a month-by-month breakdown and in each case specifying the sex and age of the complainant*
2. *-The number of reports/allegations from complainants claiming their drinks had been 'spiked' from January 2017 to the present day, giving a month-by-month breakdown and in each case specifying the sex and age of the complainant*
3. *-The number of reports/allegations from complainants claiming they had been 'spiked' with a needle, giving a month-by-month breakdown and in each case specifying the sex and age of the complainant*
4. *-the number of arrests and charges for all of the above and the age and sex of those charged.*

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 exemptions apply to the disclosure of some of the information in the format you have requested:

Section 40(2) Personal Information

This is an absolute exemption and therefore a Public Interest Test is not relevant. However, for clarity, I will explain my rationale for engaging this exemption. Section 40(2) provides that information is exempt if it is the personal data of someone other than the applicant and disclosure would breach any of the data protection principles. The term 'personal data' means data that relates to a living individual who can be identified.

Although I would not be explicitly naming the individuals involved, disclosing very low numbers, by month, gender and age may well lead to the identification of those involved. This would be breaching the right to privacy afforded to persons under the Data Protection Act 1998. I also considered engaging Section 44 (1) *Prohibition on Disclosures*, in respect of Section 2 of the Sexual Offences Act 1992 (as amended by Schedule 6 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003) which gives victims of specific offences a guaranteed anonymity.

However, I believe giving the data in a different tabled format will mitigate this concern.

I note also that you have requested data from January 2017 to the 'present day' 2021. Please be advised that during this period, 4th December 2017, South Yorkshire Police switched to a new Crime Management system – Connect. Whilst data prior to 4th December 2017 is still held on our legacy system, it is no longer in use and data cannot be readily extracted without a manual trawl. As such, any request for data prior to 4th December 2017 will regrettably engage Section 12 – cost exemption.

In order to provide you with some data which we hope will be of use, and to avoid engaging Section 12, we have provided data from the point at which crimes were recorded on the new system Connect. This system is used to record complaints or allegations of those matters, which the Home Office specify should be recorded as 'crimes'.

Our Data Returns Officer has therefore conducted a search of the our Crime Management System CONNECT and provided me with the enclosed spreadsheet in response and the following explanation regarding her search criteria:

Please note as we do not hold the data for the counts of arrests, we have alternatively provided recorded crimes and outcomes, based on the criteria below.

Also, we cannot distinguish drink spiking/spiking by injection, without a manual trawl through the circumstances of the offence which is expected to exceed the 18 cost threshold. We have therefore provided a combined figure for questions 2 and 3 within the data provided.

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.

Suspect gender volumes are based on a count of crimes where there is at least 1 suspect of that gender (if there are two males for example, this is only counted as 1, whereas if there was a male and female suspect, the crime will be counted under both headings).