

15 May 2018

Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20180648

REQUEST

My questions relate to the lacing or spiking of drinks with drugs and/or alcohol.

As far as I can see, there are no current and collated national statistics on this issue.

My request is in 2 parts:

- 1. How many crimes were reported to the police relating to “drink spiking” or “drink lacing” for each year in the past three years.**
- 2. How many arrests were made relating to “drink spiking” or “drink lacing” for each year in the past three years.**

Please reply to the FOI with:

- Information listed in a simple table by calendar year (2015, 2016 and 2017)**

RESPONSE

Question 2

I approached our Custody Handling System (CHS) Administrator for assistance with question 2. This system records details relating to arrests and detainees held in custody. He conducted a search of the system using the criteria above and provided the following feedback:

I have searched for custody records between 2015 and 2017 inclusive where the reason for arrest includes the word 'DRINK' and either 'SPIKE' or 'LACE' and this returned no results.
</p><p>Having spoken to a custody sergeant the spiking of a drink is likely to be part of another offence for which the arrest was made with that being included in the offence MO

Question 1

I approached our Crime Management Data Returns Administrator for assistance with question 1. The CMS system and Connect System is used to record complaints or allegations of those matters, which the Home Office specify should be recorded as ‘crimes’.

She conducted a search of the two crime management systems. (CMS - our legacy system which provides data up to 4th December 2017 and our new CONNECT system which records crimes from that date onwards)

She provided me with the enclosed spreadsheet and the following explanation of her search criteria:

Please see the attached data and the below explanation.

CMS(ii) data

I have included a count of the offences recorded on CMS(ii) between 01-Jan-2015 – 04-Dec-2017, that were recorded with the MO DRINK/FOOD SPIKED WITH DRUGS/ALCOHOL, however we cannot differentiate between FOOD and DRINK, the circumstances of each offence would have to be reviewed. MO are a non-mandated requirement, therefore using this as search criteria may not accurately reflect what is potentially recorded on CMS(ii).

CONNECT data

I have included a count of the offences recorded on CONNECT BETWEEN 05-Dec-2017 AND 31-Dec-2017, hat were recorded with the MO Desc 3 - Drink Interfered With – Spiked.

Please note some offences will have been recorded in accordance with the Home Office Counting Rules – General Rules – The Principal Crime rule, as below i.e. if a drink was spiked and a further offence was committed as a result i.e. Rape

- **IF THE SEQUENCE OF CRIMES IN AN INCIDENT, OR A COMPLEX CRIME, CONTAINS MORE THAN ONE TYPE OF CRIME, THEN COUNT THE MOST SERIOUS CRIME.**