

17th April 2020

Freedom of Information Request - Reference No: 20200901

REQUEST

How many incidents of drink-spiking were recorded by your force in 2019?

Please search for this data by means of keyword searches of MO codes, using the terms 'spike', 'spiking', 'drink-spike', 'drink spiked', 'spiked drink', while checking to make sure that they don't refer to some other context (e.g. 'a spiked fence' or 'spiked hair').

Finally, can you please attach the first five MO codes from January 2019 for drink spiking-related offences? I accept redactions may need to be made to remove personal information.

RESPONSE

We have approached our Crime Management Data Returns Administrator for assistance with this type of request previously. The Connect System is used to record complaints or allegations of those matters, which the Home Office specify should be recorded as 'crimes'.

All our systems are designed and used first and foremost for Policing Purposes and have limited search capability.

Please see the enclosed spreadsheet and the following explanation of the search criteria:

*Such circumstances of offence may be recorded in accordance with the Home Office Counting Rules –
The Principal Crime Rule (1 of 1) 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, therefore I can only extract data based on the following MO recorded for CONNECT. However, MO are not a mandated requirement, therefore using this field may not accurately reflect what is potentially recorded on CONNECT.*

CONNECT MO DESC 3 - Drink Interfered With – Spiked

However, if the requester may only be interested in the offences ADMINISTERING POISON SO AS TO ENDANGER LIFE ADMINISTERING POISON WITH INTENT TO INJURE OR ANNOY recorded under offence class ASSAULT WITH INJURY or ADMINISTERING A SUBSTANCE WITH INTENT recorded under OTHER MISCELLANEOUS SEXUAL OFFENCES, these have also be included regardless if they are recorded with the MO. These offences have been recorded in accordance with the below Home Office Counting Rule -

88C Other Miscellaneous Sexual Offences Classification / Counting Rule (1 of 1)

APPLICATION OF THE RULE

Administering poison with intent to injure or annoy:

If the intentions of the offender (e.g. in drink spiking) are sexual, record one crime of 88/5 (administering a substance with intent) under class 88C. If the intentions are unknown, record under class 8N (poisoning).

Example 1 - A female's drink was spiked but the intentions of the offender, other than to annoy, are unknown.

One crime, class 8/2 (8N).

CONNECT Data

CONNECT MO - I have provided a count of offences recorded for CONNECT Crime between 05-Dec-2017 and 31-Dec-2019 where the MO DESC 3 is Drink Interfered With – Spiked.

CONNECT Offence - I have also included a count of the offences ADMINISTERING POISON SO AS TO ENDANGER LIFE & ADMINISTERING POISON WITH INTENT TO INJURE OR ANNOY recorded under offence class ASSAULT WITH INJURY or ADMINISTERING A SUBSTANCE WITH INTENT recorded under OTHER MISCELLANEOUS SEXUAL OFFENCES ADMINISTERING A SUBSTANCE WITH INTENT.

Of the offence counts, I have provided the Offence Outcome and a breakdown by district.

Please note -

- MO are not a mandated requirement, therefore using this field may not accurately reflect what is potentially recorded on CONNECT.*
- SYP have changed their central crime management system in December 2017. Therefore data from the new system cannot be used as a direct comparison due to the different ways in which crimes are recorded in the past.*