

Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 003408-19

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk Constabulary on the 23 September 2019 in which you sought access to the following information:

“For each of the calendar years 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 up to September 20, please state the number of reports your force received of drink spiking / drink lacing incidents. For each reported crime please state the gender of the victim, the age of the victim, whether a charge was brought and if a charge was brought, whether there was a conviction. If a defendant was charged/convicted with an alternative offence please state this too.”

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 3 October 2019

Suffolk Constabulary has considered your request for information and the response is below.

There is no specific offence category for drink spiking or drink lacing incidents. Therefore, the Constabulary has completed a freetext search of the words "Spike", "Spiking", "Drink-Spike", "Drinked Spiked", "Spiked Drink", "Lacing", "Drinking Lacing", "Laced Drink". Each offence was then manually reviewed to ensure it was relevant to the request.

Please note that freetext searches are by their very nature, unreliable, and consequently there may be other additional relevant offences that have not been included within the return as the crime report did not include the specific terms researched.

The total number of offences recorded during the 2015 – 2018 calendar years is provided in the table below. No one has been charged with any offences to date, however please note that two offences were transferred to another police force to deal and 5 remain under investigation.

Year	Victim Age	Victim Gender
2015	18	Female
	20	Female
	25	Female
	56	Female
	Not Recorded	Male
2016	23	Female
	24	Female



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	31	Male
	36	Male
	40	Female
2017	21	Female
	23	Female
	28	Female
	32	Male
	39	Female
	41	Female
2018	19	Female
	19	Female
	19	Female
	20	Female
	20	Female
	26	Male
	42	Female
	50	Female
2019	55	Female
	18	Female
	19	Female
	19	Male
	20	Female
	21	Female
	30	Female
	40	Female
42	Male	
49	Male	
Grand Total		35

Police forces in the United Kingdom are routinely required to provide crime statistics to government bodies and the recording criteria is set nationally. However, the systems used for recording these figures are not generic, nor are the procedures used locally in capturing the crime data. It should be noted that for these reasons this force's response to your questions should not be used for comparison purposes with any other response you may receive.



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Should you have any further queries concerning this request, please contact Clair Pack, FOI Decision Maker, quoting the reference number shown above.

A full copy of the Freedom of Information Act (2000) can be viewed on the 'Office of Public Sector Information' web-site;

<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/>

Suffolk Constabulary is not responsible for the content, or the reliability, of the website referenced. The Constabulary cannot guarantee that this link will work all of the time, and we have no control over the availability of the linked pages.



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Your Right to Request a Review of Decisions Made Under the Terms of the
Freedom of Information Act (2000).

If you are unhappy with how your request has been handled, or if you think the decision is incorrect, you have the right to ask Suffolk Constabulary to review their decision.

Ask Suffolk Constabulary to look at the decision again.

If you are dissatisfied with the decision made by Suffolk Constabulary under the Freedom of Information Act (2000), regarding access to information, you must notify Suffolk Constabulary that you are requesting a review within 40 working days of the date of its response to your Freedom of Information request. Requests for a review should be made in writing and addressed to:

*Freedom of Information Decision Maker
Information Management Department
Suffolk Constabulary
Police Headquarters
Martlesham Heath
Ipswich
Suffolk
IP5 3QS
OR
Email: information@suffolk.pnn.police.uk*

In all possible circumstances Suffolk Constabulary will aim to respond to your request for us to look at our decision again within 20 working days of receipt of your request for an internal review.

The Information Commissioner.

After lodging a request for a review with Suffolk Constabulary, if you are still dissatisfied with the decision, you can apply to the Information Commissioner for a decision on whether the request for information has been dealt with in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

For information on how to make application to the Information Commissioner please visit their website at www.ico.org.uk or contact them at the address shown below:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Telephone: 01625 545 700