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Our Ref: FOI2018/02458

REQUEST UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 Ref No: FOI2018/02458

I write in connection with your request for information received on 4th May. I note you seek access to the following information:

Please can you tell me how many incidents of drink spiking have been recorded in your area each year between 2005 and 2008?

I am required by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (The Act) to handle all requests in a manner that is blind to the identity of the requestor. Any information released in response to a request is regarded as being published and therefore, in the public domain without caveat.

Following enquiries within the Constabulary please see our response below.

Response – Please see the below table detailing the information you have requested.

	Jan-Jun	July-Dec
98	0	0
99	0	0
00	0	0
01	0	1
02	3	1
03	1	3
04	4	7
05	6	4
06	5	5
07	2	1
08	0	0
09	1	1
10	0	1
11	0	0
12	0	1
13	1	2
14	3	2
15	3	2
16	5	7

The exact methodology above could not be replicated as Hertfordshire do not have a means code for drink spiking; furthermore, additional relevant offence codes to those used above were identified.

All Hertfordshire Offence Codes associated with the Home Office Codes 005/10, 008/02 and 088/05 were identified. All crimes recorded in the time period with such associated offence codes were extracted from the Force Crime System. In addition, offences recorded in the period with Hertfordshire offence codes 5/5 (Administer drug with intent to commit indictable offence) and 24/1/2 (Sex- Administer drug to facilitate intercourse) were also extracted to the dataset. A MO text search was conducted on the word "SPIK" against all crime system records recorded in the time period. Those records with SPIK in the MO (including spike, spiking etc) were added to the above described dataset.

Duplicated crime references, Out of Force crimes and cancelled crimes were removed from the dataset.

Of the extracted dataset, each MO was read to determine if the offence was related to drink-spiking or suspected drink-spiking. The Oxford English dictionary definition of drink spiking was used: "Add alcohol or a drug to contaminate a drink surreptitiously". This provided the below results.

The numerical data presented in this response is an un-audited snapshot of un-published data sourced from "live" systems and is subject to the interpretation of the original request by the individual extracting the data.

Should you have any further enquiries concerning this matter please do not hesitate to contact me quoting the above reference number.

Yours sincerely

James Hodson
Information Rights

Hertfordshire Constabulary provides you the right to request an independent review of this response under its review procedure. If you require such a review you must notify us within two months from the date of this letter. After lodging a complaint with Hertfordshire Constabulary if you are still dissatisfied with the decision you may make an application to the Information Commissioner. For information on how to make a complaint please visit their website at <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/> or contact them on 0303 123 1113.