

## Drink-spiking in Northamptonshire

Northamptonshire Police have launched Operation Kalon to investigate reports of drink-spiking, advising people of the need to take care of each other on nights out and be mindful of what and how much they are drinking. Northamptonshire Police also run Operation Kayak, which was set up to identify and prevent predatory behaviour in the night-time economy.

Our News team have been publishing updates in relation to the action that Northamptonshire Police are taking, and we will continue to work hard to keep revellers safe, as well as taking firm action against anyone breaking the law.

Please see the below links for the most recent news items that we have published and advice around drink-spiking and staying safe:

[News search | Northamptonshire Police \(northants.police.uk\)](#)

[Act responsibly: Advice to help keep everyone safe on a night out | Northamptonshire Police \(northants.police.uk\)](#)

[Spiked drinks and date-rape drugs | Crime prevention | Northamptonshire Police \(northants.police.uk\)](#)

## Freedom of Information Response

Northamptonshire Police have received a large number of requests in relation to the practice of drink spiking, and spiking by injection/needle. These requests have asked for one or many different keywords or specific offences in relation to administering noxious poisons. To enable consistent data to be provided, we have collated all the data into one response, and therefore the following information may be more than you were seeking.

Please note the following points when reading the following data:

- Northamptonshire Police does not hold any information in relation to convictions because this information is held by Her Majesty's Court Service.
- Information regarding if the victim sought medical assistance, or if it was confirmed that the victim was drugged or not is not held in any reasonably retrievable form. The only means of establishing information of the nature you are requesting would be by way of manual examination of every log on each crime report, therefore taking this part of the request over cost.

In an emergency call **999**  
For non emergencies call **101**



[www.northants.police.uk](http://www.northants.police.uk)



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- Anonymised crime reports are not provided as the Modus Operandi (MO) contain personal information and details pertaining to any relevant investigation and therefore exemptions would apply; the amount of redaction necessary to remove exempt information and anonymise any remaining information subsequently renders the information useless.
- Due to the request seeking detailed information which in its requested format risks identifying individuals, we have supplied the data in uncorrelated tables so as to avoid engaging exemption under Section 40(2) of FOIA – Personal Information.
- Keyword searches are problematic and in no way provide accurate results or figures. As with any keyword search, the search will only return exact matches, and will not take into account any differences in terminology and/or spelling used.
- Each MO has been manually read to make sure it fulfils the criteria of the request, and to ensure that unrelated offences are excluded, for example, a suspect has spiked hair or a metal spiked fence has been damaged.

Comparing numbers of offences can be misleading and does not necessarily indicate the likelihood of someone being a victim of crime. One offence could have more than one offender, or one victim may have been subject to a number of offences.

In addition, the number of crimes recorded in an area over a period of time can be influenced by a number of factors, including improved reporting practices. Consequently statistics on crimes for one period may not necessarily be a good indicator of future incidents in that area.

Home Office Counting Rules for Recorded Crime - The Principal Crime Rule - dictates that if the sequence of crimes in an incident, or a complex crime, contains more than one type of crime, then the most serious crime is the crime that is recorded, for example a house is entered, the female occupant is raped and her car is stolen from the driveway, all are reported together - One crime of rape is recorded.

[Crime Recording General Rules \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

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

These figures may be subject to further investigation, reclassification and cancelling and will therefore change over time. Crime classifications are based on Home Office Counting Rules for Recorded Crime:

[Counting rules for recorded crime - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

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Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that the data has been extracted from a number of data sources used by forces for police purposes. The detail collected to respond specifically to your request is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when interpreting the data.

The figures provided therefore are our best interpretation of relevance of data to your request, but you should be aware that the collation of figures for ad hoc requests may have limitations and this should be taken into account when the data is used.

Due to the different methods of recording information across 43 forces, a specific response from one constabulary should not be seen as an indication of what information could be supplied (within cost) by another. Systems used for recording these figures are not generic, nor are the procedures used locally in capturing the data. For this reason responses between forces may differ, and should not be used for comparative purposes.

If you decide to write an article / use the enclosed data we would ask you to take into consideration the factors highlighted in this document so as to not mislead members of the public or official bodies, or misrepresent the relevance of the whole or any part of this disclosed material.

I have to advise you that Northamptonshire Police is not obliged to provide all of the information that has been requested under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Please take this letter as a Refusal Notice in relation to 'ongoing investigations'.

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Northamptonshire Police, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt within the provisions of the Act) is required to provide you, the applicant, with a Notice which:

- a) states the fact that an exemption has been applied
- b) specifies the exemption in question, and
- c) states why the exemption applies

The statutory exemption applicable to the information not disclosed is as follows:

Section 30(1)(a) - Criminal Investigations and Proceedings

This exemption is class-based and legislators, therefore, have accepted that the release of any information in this class may be harmful. This covers information held at any time for the purposes of a specific investigation, criminal or otherwise. However, since the exemption is qualified, I am required to apply the public interest test.

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## Public Interest Test

### Factors favouring disclosure

There is legitimate public interest in knowing basic recording details of crimes such as these. Disclosure of this information would enlighten members of the public as to the effectiveness and efficiency of the Force. This may promote awareness and accountability where expenditure of public funds is concerned.

### Factors favouring non-disclosure

Information relating to an investigation will rarely be disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act and only where there is a strong public interest consideration favouring disclosure. Due to the investigations being ongoing if details were to be released this may hinder the progress of the investigations and any proceedings arising from it. Releasing unpublished details for each complaint/accusation that is still ongoing may raise awareness to suspects that a report has been made.

### Balancing Test

Whilst there is a public interest in the transparency of policing operations there is a need to safeguard the integrity of police investigations and operations in detecting crime.

The public interest test is centred on whether the information you have requested should be disclosed to the world, not just to you the applicant.

The Police service is tasked with protecting the community and solving crime and they would not disclose information if it would jeopardise those important roles. It is therefore my opinion that the balance lies in favour of non-disclosure of the data requested.

The data on the following pages are correct at 15 November 2021.

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**Specific offences and those that are 'Drink Spiking' related (see keywords as given below):**

- Administer drug with intent to commit an indictable offence
- Administer poison with intent to endanger life / inflict grievous bodily harm
- Cause administer poison with intent to injure / aggrieve / annoy
- Sex - Administer a substance with intent - SOA 2003

ALL MO'S HAVE BEEN READ TO ENSURE OFFENCE RELATES TO A DRINK SPIKING OR NEEDLE/INJECTION BASED SPIKING OCCURRENCE.

Total numbers by Month and Year:

<b>Year/Month</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
January	1	1			3	7	5
February		9	1	1	2	2	2
March	1				2	1	5
April		2			1	1	4
May			2	2		1	
June			1	2			1
July	1		1	4	2	1	7
August		1		5	4	1	4
September	1		5		4	3	26
October		2	2		1	3	25
November	1	1	1	1	2	5	
December		1		1	1	6	
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>79</b>

Month and Year filtered by keywords (as given below):

<b>Year/Month</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
January	1	1			3	7	5
February		9	1		2	2	2
March	1				2	1	5
April		2			1	1	5
May			2	2		1	
June			1	2			1
July	1		1	4	2	1	6
August		1		5	4	1	4
September	1		5		4	3	24

October		2	2		1	3	
November	1	1	1	2	2	5	
December		1		1	1	6	
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>52</b>

Offence by Year:

<b>Offence</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Administer drug with intent to commit an indictable offence		1	1			2	1
Administer poison with intent to endanger life / inflict grievous bodily harm	2		1	2	1	7	6
Cause administer poison with intent to injure / aggrieve / annoy	3	15	11	14	21	19	71
Sex - Administer a substance with intent - SOA 2003		1				3	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>79</b>

Offences filtered by keywords (as given below):

<b>Offence</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Administer drug with intent to commit an indictable offence		1	1			2	1
Administer poison with intent to endanger life / inflict grievous bodily harm	2		1	2	1	7	5
Cause administer poison with intent to injure / aggrieve / annoy	3	15	11	14	21	19	45
Sex - Administer a substance with intent - SOA 2003		1				3	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>52</b>

Outcomes by Year:

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
1: Charged	1				1		
1: Summoned/postal requisition				2	1		
14: Victim declines/unable to support action to identify offender	2		1	1	5	2	14

15: CPS - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties		1	1			3	
15: Police - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties				3	4	9	7
16: Victim declines/withdraws support - named suspect identified	1		4	3	4	6	6
17: Suspect identified but prosecution time limit expired		1					
18: Investigation complete no suspect identified		4	3	6	7	11	52
20: Other body/agency has investigation primacy		9		1			
21: Police - named suspect, investigation not in the public interest			3				
9: CPS - prosecution not in public interest	1		1				
Hist - Resolved - 15.0 Suspect NFA evi diff		2					
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>79</b>

Outcomes filtered by keywords (as given below):

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
1: Charged	1				1		
1: Summoned/postal requisition				2	1		
14: Victim declines/unable to support action to identify offender	2		1	1	5	2	13
15: CPS - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties		1	1			3	
15: Police - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties				3	4	9	7
16: Victim declines/withdraws support - named suspect identified	1		4	3	4	6	6
17: Suspect identified but prosecution time limit expired		1					
18: Investigation complete no suspect identified		4	3	6	7	11	26
20: Other body/agency has investigation primacy		9		1			
21: Police - named suspect, investigation not in the public interest			3				

9: CPS - prosecution not in public interest	1		1				
Hist - Resolved - 15.0 Suspect NFA evi diff		2					
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>52</b>

Drink Spiking incidents by keywords:

Body Spiking

Drink Spiking

Spik AND Drink

Spik AND Needle

Spiking by Injection

Drinks Lacing

Drinks Spiking

Spik AND Lace

Spike

Drink-Spike

Injection Spiking

Spik AND Laced

Spiked Drink

Drink Spiked

Lacing

Spik AND Lacing

Spiking

### Drink Spiking incidents by specified keywords:

Body Spiking                      Drinks Lacing                      Drink-Spike                      Drink Spiked  
 Drink Spiking                      Drinks Spiking                      Injection Spiking                      Lacing  
 Spik AND Drink                      Spik AND Lace                      Spik AND Laced                      Spik AND Lacing  
 Spik AND Needle                      Spike                      Spiked Drink                      Spiking  
 Spiking by Injection

ALL MO'S HAVE BEEN READ TO ENSURE OFFENCE RELATES TO A DRINK SPIKING OR NEEDLE/INJECTION BASED SPIKING OCCURRENCE.

Total numbers by Month and Year:

Year/Month	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
January		2	1	1	4	5	
February	1			3	2	3	2
March	1	1		1	2	1	2
April	1	3		1	3	1	1
May	1					1	
June		1	1	3		3	1
July		1		1	1	2	7
August	1		1		2	1	4
September		1	1	3	5	2	23
October		1		1	2	2	24
November	3		2	1			
December				2			
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>64</b>

Offence by Year:

Offence	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Burglary Residential			1				
Criminal Damage	1						
Other Sexual Offences	2	1	1	4	2	5	2
Other Theft		2		3	2		
Rape	5	3	2	2	4	8	3
Robbery				2	1		
Stalking and Harassment				1	2		
Theft from The Person		1					2

Violence with Injury		3	2	4	9	8	57
Violence Without Injury				1	1		
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>64</b>

Outcomes by Year:

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
1: Summoned/postal requisition	1						
14: Victim declines/unable to support action to identify offender	2	2	1	1	4	5	13
15: CPS - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties		1				1	
15: Police - named suspect, victim supports but evidential difficulties			2	5	6	3	4
16: Victim declines/withdraws support - named suspect identified	2	1		2	2	1	2
17: Suspect identified but prosecution time limit expired				1			
18: Investigation complete no suspect identified		3	3	8	8	11	45
20: Other body/agency has investigation primacy					1		
Hist - Resolved - 15.0 Suspect NFA evi diff	3	3					
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>64</b>

Location by Neighbourhood Policing Area:

<b>Neighbourhood Policing Area</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Corby Rural	1						2
Corby Town	1	1		1	3		1
Daventry Rural					1		3
Daventry Town					2	1	4
East Northants Central		1					
East Northants North				1	1		
East Northants South						1	
Kettering Rural	1					1	
Kettering Town			1			1	
Northampton Central	2	6	1	8	4	7	48

Northampton North East	2	2	1		5	4	3
Northampton South West			1			1	2
South Northants Brackley				3		1	
South Northants Towcester	1			1	1	2	
Wellingborough Town			2	3	4	2	1
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>64</b>

**Victim and Offender Data for ALL offences using keywords as given below:**

Victim Data:

<b>Victim Age</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Under 18	1	2		3	3	2	12
18-24	2	6	6	12	6	10	67
25-29		2	0	1	2	7	9
30-34	3	1	0	3	9	1	15
35-39	2	0	1	0	4	3	2
Over 40		2	1	0	4	6	6
Unknown / Not Stated		0	0	1	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>111</b>

<b>Victim Gender</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Female	8	7	7	14	17	25	76
Male		6	1	6	11	4	36
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>111</b>

<b>Victim Ethnicity</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
A1. Asian - Indian		0	0	0	0	0	1
B2. Black African		0	0	0	0	1	0
M9. Any other mixed background		0	0	0	0	2	0
NS. Not stated		1	0	4	5	8	23
W1. White British	8	10	7	13	20	18	81
W2. White Irish		0	1	0	0	0	2
W9. Any other white background		2	0	3	3	0	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>111</b>

Offender data:

<b>Offender Age</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Under 18	1				4		4
18-24	2		1	1	2		4

25-29	1				2	2	
30-34	1	4		1	3	4	2
35-39		1				1	
Over 40	1			2		2	
Unknown / Not Stated					1		1
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>

<b>Offender Gender</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Female		3		2	1		
Male	6	2	1	2	11	9	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>

Arrest data:

<b>Offenders Arrested</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
Yes		1	1		1	4	1

Needle and/or injection mentioned:

<b>Needle or Injection</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>
N	8	13	8	20	28	29	108
Y							3
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>111</b>