

T/Chief Constable
T/Chief Constable Darren Martland
Police Headquarters
Carleton Hall Penrith,
Cumbria
CA10 2AU



25th July 2025

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST – FOI 665/25 Needle Spiking Incidents

I refer to your request for information which was received by Cumbria Constabulary on 26th June 2025. I note you seek access to the following information:

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request the following:

- 1. The total number of reported needle spiking incidents received by your force from 1 January 2020 to the date of this request.*

If possible, please provide a yearly breakdown for:

- 2020
- 2021
- 2022
- 2023
- 2024
- 2025 to date

This request is for the number of reports received by the force in relation to spiking via injection. "Spiking via injection" is defined as any incident in which someone is injected with drugs without their consent-also referred to as "needle spiking".

I am only requesting basic figures and not case details, to keep this request simple.

Your request for information has now been considered and I can confirm Cumbria Constabulary does hold some information relevant to your request and where this is the case I have today decided to disclose this to you.

Please note: the information provided has been extracted from Cumbria Constabulary's crime recording system. The filters option was used to look at crimes that mentioned "needle", "injection" and syringe". A keyword search was conducted using the terms:

- Spiking
- Drink spike
- spiked
- rohypnol
- ghb
- drugged
- drink lac

A keyword search may not accurately identify all information held by the Constabulary. If, for example, the words were recorded in a different field, or if another name or term was used to



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describe the incident, any such records would not be identified by the keyword search which has been undertaken.

1. The total number of reported needle spiking incidents from 1 January 2020 to July 2025.

Year	Distinct Count of Crime Number
2020	1
2021	7
2022	18
2023	12
2024	16
2025 (up to July)	8
Grand Total	62

Police forces in the United Kingdom are routinely required to provide 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 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.

Whilst every care has been taken in the retrieval of the information provided, please do not hesitate to contact us for clarification, if you do have any issues or queries relating to this data.

Complaint Rights

If you believe your request has not been properly handled, or you are otherwise dissatisfied with the outcome of your request, you have the right to request an internal review.

In the first instance, please email freedomofinformation@cumbria.police.uk quoting the FOI reference number and explain why you are dissatisfied. Your complaint will be considered and a response will be provided to you after your complaint has been investigated.

If you remain dissatisfied following conclusion of the internal review, you have the right, under section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to complain directly to the Information Commissioner.

The address for the Information Commissioner can be found below:

The Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Complaints to the Information Commissioner can also be made online:

[Make a complaint | ICO](#)

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in Cumbria Constabulary.

