



**HEDDLU
GWENT
POLICE**



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST 2025/

Dear requester,

Thank you for your recent request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) places two duties on public authorities. Unless exemptions apply, the first duty at, **Section 1(1) (a)**, is to confirm or deny whether the information specified in a request is held. The second duty at, **Section 1 (1) (b)**, is to disclose information that has been confirmed as being held.

The information that you are seeking is in relation to the following:

REQUEST

Under the Freedom of Information Request please provide the following information:

Confirmed or suspected spiking incidents involving vapes or similar over the last 5 years (2020, 21, 22, 23, 24 – i.e. attended / charged / investigated incidents)

I would like this information broken down by the following, where available:

- Age
- Gender
- Whether the incident occurred at a place of education, for example school or college
- Whether the victim required any treatment at hospital
- Date of the incident
- The drugs involved i.e. spice, nitazenes

Background:

I don't know how these offences may be recorded in your system, but the range of crimes listed could include:

- Administering drug with intent to commit indictable offence
- Administering poison so as to endanger life
- Use of noxious substances or things to cause harm and intimidate
- Administering poison with intent to injure or annoy
- Administering a substance with intent

Please where possible cross reference these offences with records that directly mention spiking and vapes.



RESPONSE

The data provided for spiking via vape is based on the following offences ‘Administer poison with intent to injure or annoy’, ‘Administering a substance with intent’, and ‘Administering poison so as to endanger life’ recorded in 2020 to 2024. Please keep in mind that this may not pull all spiking cases, as they may have been recorded under a different offence if more than one crime occurred.

We have also conducted a keyword search of ‘Spike’ within the MO summaries on all crimes recorded in 2020 to 2024. Please note that the keyword search is restricted to the summaries, as a keyword search of the full data log is not available. If the keyword was not mentioned in the summaries, then it would not be highlighted for us to check.

We have then completed a keyword of ‘vape’ within the MO summaries. The data provided within the tables below only includes those that had ‘vape’ mentioned within the summaries.

This data is based on reported / recorded offences and NOT confirmed spiking cases.

Recorded Year	Number of offences
2020	0
2021	0
2022	0
2023	4
2024	17
Total	21

The table below provides a breakdown of the victims age by age group.

Age Group	Recorded Year	
	2023	2024
10-17 years	2	16
26-35 years	1	0
36-45 years	1	1



The table below provides a breakdown of the victims by gender.

Gender	Recorded Year	
	2023	2024
Female	2	9
Male	2	8

The table below is based on if the occurrence took place within a school or college.

Occurred at a place of Education?	Recorded Year	
	2023	2024
Yes	2	12
No	2	5

Unfortunately, we would not know if the victim has been treated at a hospital, instead we have provided data based on the victim attending the hospital. The table below is based on if the occurrence stated that the victim attended hospital. If there was no mention within the occurrence, then this has been labelled as unknown.

Attended Hospital?	Recorded Year	
	2023	2024
Yes	4	10
No	0	2
Unknown	0	5

The table below provides a breakdown of the 'Occurrence Dates'.

Occurrence Date	Total
Feb-23	1
Mar-23	1
Apr-23	1
May-23	1
Jan-24	2
Feb-24	2
Mar-24	3
Apr-24	2
May-24	2
Jun-24	3
Jul-24	1
Aug-24	2
Total	21



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The table below is based on if the occurrence mentioned a suspected drug within the vape. This is not based on confirmed drugs. If there was no mention of a suspected drug within the occurrence, then this has been labelled as unknown.

Suspected Drugs	Recorded Year	
	2023	2024
Spice	0	3
THC	2	9
THC/Spice	0	2
Unknown	2	3

Data correct as of 20/01/2025.

Please note, every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete.

Freedom of Information Act is a public disclosure regime, not a private regime. Any information disclosed under the Act is thereafter deemed to be in the public domain, and therefore freely available to the public and will be published on the Gwent Police website.

If, upon receiving a response to a freedom of information request, you are unhappy with the outcome, you may request an internal review. **This should be made within 40 working days of the initial response.**

Please direct any internal review requests to FOI@gwent.police.uk

You have the right to request an appeal from the Information Commissioners Office about your Freedom of Information request, if you are dissatisfied with your internal review response.

ICO Contact Details:

The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113

Web: www.ico.org.uk

Thank you for your interest in Gwent Police.