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17th February 2026
Internal Ref: 260137
Email:

Dear ,

The trust acknowledges receipt of your Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) request, referenced above. Please ensure you quote this number in any future correspondence.

FOI Request

I am studying BSc (Hons) Crime and Investigative Studies. As part of my studies. I am currently conducting a study on spiking under the supervision of, Principal Investigator for Spiking Research at Anglia Ruskin University. This research has received full ethical approval from the Faculty Research Ethics Panel [ETH2526-0983].

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request the following information your organisation may hold regarding incidents of spiking:

1. The number of recorded incidents of suspected spiking cases from October 2021 – September 2025, broken down by month where possible.
2. Where available, provide a breakdown of the information, such as grouped data or percentages:
 - a. **Type of spiking methods** – needling, drink spiking, food spiking, vape spiking and any other means
 - b. **Gender** – Male, Female, Non-binary, Not disclosed, Other
 - c. **Age group** of individuals at the time of alleged spiking -
 - Below 18
 - 18 to 24
 - 25 to 34
 - 35 to 44
 - 45 and above
 - d. **Setting/location type** where spiking took place (bar, nightclub, private residence, university accommodation, others)
3. Copies of or link to any **guidance, protocols, or policies** your organisation has for responding to suspected spiking incidents.



4. This question is for Sexual Assault Referral Centres — do you accept reports of spiking even if there hasn't been a sexual assault?

Formal Response

The trust confirms it partially holds the information you have requested.

I am studying BSc (Hons) Crime and Investigative Studies. As part of my studies. I am currently conducting a study on spiking under the supervision of, Principal Investigator for Spiking Research at Anglia Ruskin University. This research has received full ethical approval from the Faculty Research Ethics Panel [ETH2526-0983].

Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, I would like to request the following information your organisation may hold regarding incidents of spiking:

1. **The number of recorded incidents of suspected spiking cases from October 2021 – September 2025, broken down by month where possible.**

This can be found within the attached spreadsheet.

2. **Where available, provide a breakdown of the information, such as grouped data or percentages:**
 - a. **Type of spiking methods – needling, drink spiking, food spiking, vape spiking and any other means**

Under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Trust is not obliged to comply with your request if we estimate that the cost of doing so would exceed the appropriate limit. The limit is set by the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004 and is currently £450, which equates to 18 hours of staff time.

After reviewing your request, we have determined that fulfilling it would exceed this limit. Therefore, we are refusing your request under Section 12 of the Act.

In line with section 16 Freedom Of Information Act, if you would like to refine or clarify your request, or need help locating published information, please contact us using the details below. FOI@secamb.nhs.uk.

You could simplify your request to only one type of method, however we cannot guarantee that a refined request would fall within the cost limit, we would be happy to consider any revised request you may wish to submit.



- b. Gender – Male, Female, Non-binary, Not disclosed, Other**
- c. Age group of individuals at the time of alleged spiking -**
 - **Below 18**
 - **18 to 24**
 - **25 to 34**
 - **35 to 44**
 - **45 and above**
- d. Setting/location type where spiking took place (bar, nightclub, private residence, university accommodation, others)**

This can be found within the attached spreadsheet.

3. Copies of or link to any guidance, protocols, or policies your organisation has for responding to suspected spiking incidents.

SECamb does not have standalone guidance or protocols specifically dedicated to suspected spiking incidents. However, suspected spiking is managed in line with our existing clinical guidelines and operational policies which can be found [here](#).

4. This question is for Sexual Assault Referral Centres — do you accept reports of spiking even if there hasn't been a sexual assault?

Not Applicable to prehospital emergency care.

Next steps

Please note you will be able to source a lot of information which is made available on our website.

Should you be dissatisfied with our response then in the first instance please contact Richard Banks, Head of Corporate Governance, via the following email address: FOI@secamb.nhs.uk

You can ask us to review our original response. If you would like us to carry out an internal review, please let us know within 40 working days of you receiving our original response. This review will be conducted by an individual who was not directly involved in reviewing the original response, ordinarily, the Trust Data Protection Officer.

We will endeavour to complete this request within 20 working days.

Should you remain dissatisfied then you can contact the [Information Commissioner's Office](#) (ICO). Complaints to the ICO should be made within six weeks of receiving the outcome of an internal review. The easiest way to lodge a complaint is through their website: www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints.



Alternatively, the ICO's postal address is:
Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely,

**Freedom of Information Coordinator
South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust**



Saving Lives,
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Chair: Michael Whitehouse CEO: Simon Weldon