

## Freedom of Information Act Request

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

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.

Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust does not use a specific incident code to record suspected spiking. Where suspected spiking is reported, it would be recorded under broader incident categories and identified, if at all, within free-text narrative fields of incident or clinical records.

The Trust does not hold this information in a readily extractable or reportable format. There is no centrally held dataset or coded field that would enable the Trust to identify suspected spiking incidents or produce a reliable monthly breakdown.

To locate and extract the requested information would require extensive manual searching and review of free-text records across multiple systems. Under Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Trust is therefore unable to comply with this request, as the cost of compliance would exceed the appropriate limit set out in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004.

In accordance with Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance), the Trust has considered whether the request could be refined. However, even if the time period were reduced or the request limited to high-level information, the Trust would still be unable to identify suspected spiking incidents in a reliable or reportable way, as such information is not recorded using specific codes and would remain embedded within free-text clinical or incident records.

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)

Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust does not hold this information in a readily extractable or reportable format.

The Trust does not use specific incident codes or structured data fields to record suspected spiking, spiking methods, demographic characteristics, or the external setting in which an alleged spiking incident is reported to have occurred. Where suspected spiking is documented, any such details would be recorded, if at all, within free-text narrative fields of incident or clinical records.

As a result, the Trust does not hold centrally collated or coded data that would enable it to provide reliable grouped data, percentages, or breakdowns in relation to spiking method, gender, age group, or location type.

To identify and extract this information would require extensive manual searching and review of free-text records across multiple systems. Under Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Trust is therefore unable to comply with this part of the request, as the cost of compliance would exceed the appropriate limit set out in the Freedom of Information and Data Protection (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations 2004.

In accordance with Section 16 of the Act (Advice and Assistance), the Trust has considered whether the request could be refined. However, even if the scope were narrowed or the time period reduced, the Trust would still be unable to provide this information in a reliable or reportable format, as the underlying data is not recorded using structured or searchable fields.

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

Whilst specific data on suspected spiking incidents is not held to allow readily extractable information, where any concerns that a crime has been committed or a safeguarding incident identified Trust colleagues would follow safeguarding procedures; this may include referral to either Safeguarding Adults or Children and it may include referral to Police.

[https://extranet.dbth.nhs.uk/?post\\_type=binder&p=50971&preview=true](https://extranet.dbth.nhs.uk/?post_type=binder&p=50971&preview=true)  
<https://extranet.dbth.nhs.uk/document/pat-ps-10-v-11-1-safeguarding-children-policy/>

If you are not satisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to request an internal review. Requests for an internal review should be submitted within 40 working days from the date of this response, and should be addressed to [d.wraith@nhs.net](mailto:d.wraith@nhs.net).

If you remain dissatisfied after the internal review, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). The ICO can be contacted at:

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Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF  
Tel: 0303 123 1113  
Website: <https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/>