

Police Scotland submission of 5 May 2023

PE1995/B: Improve support for victims of spiking

I refer to your correspondence of 4 May 2023 addressed to the Parliament and Government Liaison at Police Scotland, seeking information on the above petition to improve support for victims of spiking.

I note the points raised in relation to the petition and I hope you will find the following information helpful.

- **Whether urine testing should take place as a standard in instances where it is suspected that an individual has been spiked and if urine testing is not routine, how a decision is made about whether or not to carry out testing;**

Notwithstanding some limited exceptions, Police Scotland will always ask the victim to provide a urine sample(s) as soon as possible after an incident of suspected Spiking. There may be some occasions when a urine sample is not obtained, such as instances when the reported incident occurred some considerable time prior to reporting to the Police (out with the currently accepted 14 day 'forensic window') or when the victim does not wish to provide a sample.

- **How seriously suspected instances of spiking are taken; and**

Police Scotland take all reports of Spiking very seriously and recognises the impact this can have on our communities. Each report is reviewed and investigated, with an absolute determination to support the victim and, where criminality can be evidenced, bring the perpetrator to justice. Police Scotland will continue to thoroughly investigate all reports, whilst simultaneously engaging with partners to understand the full impact of Spiking, ensuring that a preventative messaging continues.

- **What training is provided to police officers on responding to suspected instances of spiking.**

Police Scotland have developed and circulated a comprehensive Investigative Strategy to provide guidance and direction to all staff responding to and investigating incidents of Spiking.

Senior Investigating Officers have been appointed within each territorial Police Division to act as Divisional Single Points of Contact (SPOC) for all Spiking related matters and investigations.

Police Scotland take every report of spiking seriously and have a clear protocols in place to ensure full and thorough investigations are carried out in all reported incidents. This includes conventional investigative methods supported by forensic analysis where appropriate. The welfare of potential victims of suspected spiking incidents is always our primary concern. We continue to work with partners to raise awareness and provide support for anyone affected by spiking.

I trust this information is of assistance.