

Police Scotland submission of 8 January 2024

PE1995/D: Improve support for victims of spiking

I refer to your correspondence of 8 December 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.

- **The Committee is keen to know if Police Scotland keeps a record of instances in which a urine sample test was conducted, refused by the victim or not practically possible.**

Police Scotland monitors all occurrences of Spiking and maintains management data to identify trends and monitor the progress of investigations, including the progress of forensic examinations. This management data allows Police Scotland to identify if forensic samples have been obtained, refused or not obtained for other reasons

- **The Committee is keen to know whether Police Scotland can compare those records, if available, with the number of reported incidents of suspected spiking.**

In terms of reported incidents, recorded crimes and the number of forensic samples submitted, current management data does allow for comparative analysis.

- **The Committee is keen to know how Police Scotland ensures that Precept guidance is understood and followed by police officers across Scotland.**

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

All Spiking investigations are reviewed or overseen by a SIO and, as with all crimes, they will ensure the quality of investigation meets the required guidance and standards, addressing any learning on an ongoing basis.

There is a monthly Operation Precept forum where SIOs attend to discuss any trends, issues or local matters of note, which assists with oversight and continuous improvement at an organisational level.

Police Scotland continues to take all reports of Spiking seriously and recognises the impact this can have on our communities. There are clear protocols in place to ensure full and thorough investigations are carried out in all reported incidents and our recently launched Police Scotland Violence Against Women Strategy provides that we will continue to monitor occurrences of Spiking to allow early identification of trends and facilitate early intervention. The welfare of potential victims of suspected Spiking incidents is always our primary concern and we continue to work with partners to raise awareness and provide support for anyone affected by such incidents.