

16 May 2022

2022-028

## FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002

### REQUEST DETAILS

Please find below our response to your correspondence dated 18 April in which you made the following request under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002:

1. Is testing for GHB carried out on urine samples collected from suspected victims of drugging or administering a substance with intent?
2. What is the maximum length of time between an incident occurring and urine samples being collected that GHB testing would be carried out in a case where it was considered possible GHB had been consumed?

### RESPONSE

Your request for information has been considered and the Scottish Police Authority (SPA) is able to provide the following;

In regard to your request,

*Is testing for GHB carried out on urine samples collected from suspected victims of drugging or administering a substance with intent?*

SPA Forensic Services has confirmed that where urine samples are taken within the recommended timescale of 12 hours, testing for Gamma-hydroxybutyric acid (GHB) is carried out.

In regard to your second request,

*What is the maximum length of time between an incident occurring and urine samples being collected that GHB testing would be carried out in a case where it was considered possible GHB had been consumed?*

SPA Forensic Services has confirmed that GHB is not normally detectable after 12 hours in urine. The timescale quoted is for a single dose of GHB and is the maximum detection window.

By way of assistance, information is also available online via the National Centre for Biotechnology Information, and linked here for ease –

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2257868/>

## RIGHT TO REVIEW

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which your request has been dealt with you are entitled, in the first instance, to request a review of our actions and decisions

Your request must specify the matter which gives rise to your dissatisfaction and it must be submitted within 40 working days of receiving this response - either by email to [foi@spa.police.uk](mailto:foi@spa.police.uk) or by post to Corporate Management Team, Scottish Police Authority, 1 Pacific Quay, Glasgow, G51 1DZ.

If you remain dissatisfied following the outcome of that review, you are thereafter entitled to apply to the Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner within six months for a decision.

You can apply [online](#), by email to [enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info](mailto:enquiries@itspublicknowledge.info) or by post to Office of the Scottish Information Commissioner, Kinburn Castle, Doubledykes Road, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9DS.

Should you wish to appeal against the Scottish Information Commissioner's decision, there is an appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law only.

As part of our commitment to demonstrate openness and transparency in respect of the information we hold, an anonymised version of this response will be posted to the Scottish Police Authority Freedom of Information [Disclosure Log](#) in seven days' time.

Yours sincerely