



Home Affairs Committee

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From the Committee Chair

Home Office
2 Marsham Street
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20 July 2022

Dear Home Secretary

The Government's response to the Committee's Report on Spiking

I would like to thank you for your Department's response to the Committee's Report on Spiking, which we received on 16 June 2022 in advance of the due date. We were pleased to see that the Government welcomed most of the Committee's recommendations and committed to working with police, local government and night-time industries to produce a 'victim-first' approach to combatting spiking.

Your responses to recommendations 5,7, and 12 referred to work committed to as part of the Government's statutory review on spiking, due to report on 23 April 2023. We await the outcome of this review with interest and look forward receiving a written update on progress towards creating a separate criminal offence of spiking by 26 October. We would be grateful if you would also report progress with your proposed actions on all other recommendations within this update.

Ahead of that, we would appreciate further information on the following points:

1. Why, given your commitment to produce a 'victim-first' approach to combatting spiking, do you consider there is no need for a national or local strategies for spiking which would provide clarity on what support victims should expect?
2. What is your response to our recommendation that spiking victims be given the option of anonymous reporting?
3. How many spiking samples have been put through the accredited rapid urine testing service established in response to the outbreak of needle spiking, which you say has been available to all since January 2022?

4. Given the Government's concern that testing kits could give a false sense of security, why have you not responded to our recommendation that commercially available drug-testing products should carry warnings about their limitations?
5. Is the Government committing to new research into the motivations and profile of spikers, or just a review of existing academic research (which is very sparse)?

I would appreciate a response by 5 August and look forward to engaging with you further on this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Diana Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "Diana" is written in a larger, more prominent script, and "Johnson" follows in a similar but slightly smaller script. The ink is dark and the background is white.

Dame Diana Johnson MP