

(SPI0030)

Written evidence submitted by Anonymous (SPI0030)

[Note: This evidence has been redacted by the Committee. Text in square brackets has been inserted where text has been redacted.]

1. In 2012 and 2013 I was spiked three times (in hindsight, I now suspect by someone I knew) and had the worst experience getting help.
2. The first time, it happened on Christmas Eve so I didn't report it. I was so embarrassed and I didn't really know what to do.
3. The second time happened a few weeks later, in the same pub. This time I was worried for my safety and the safety of others (I thought it might be someone who worked in the pub), so I reported it, a police officer came to my house and interviewed me and then I received a follow up call from the chief licencing officer of [the police force], who told me if it happened again that I was a "very silly girl and should put my thumb over the top of my alcopop bottle" - I was drinking a pint when it happened. I was devastated by the conversation and angry.
4. After I reported it, the landlady of the pub both incidents happened in kicked me out of her pub a week later and shouted at me in the street for causing her trouble. Again, devastating experience and not the sort of thing that has ever happened to be before or after.
5. The third time was a year later when I was having drinks with friends in another pub, I'd had a couple of glasses of wine and then stood up to walk home and could barely walk. I went downhill quickly and don't remember anything after leaving the pub. My partner and friend had to carry me home and that night I wet the bed, something that's never happened to me before as an adult. I woke up in the morning with no memory of what had happened to my very concerned partner. I phoned the police to report the incident, and they told me to go to A&E for a test. At A&E they checked my heart rate and told me I was probably too drunk, the nurse said "I sometimes get quite drunk off two glasses of wine too" and they discharged me.
6. I received a follow up call from the police a couple of days later who asked me if there was one person who was present at all three incidents, I said there was and it had only ever happened when I was with him. They told me it was most likely him and that there wasn't a lot they could do, but I should avoid him.
7. I was terrified of this person and starting having panic attacks and was too scared to go out at night where I lived.
8. I haven't been out with this person since and it's never happened to me again.
9. A couple of years later I bumped into him with some mutual friends and he asked me "have you got your crash helmet with you tonight?" - needless to say I got away from him very quickly.

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10. I'm not surprised people don't report these incidents, after the experience I had, if it happened to me again I would be reluctant to put myself through the disappointment and stress of trying to get help.

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