

MIMS DAVIES MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Priti Patel MP
Secretary of State for the Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London, SW1P 4DF

25th November 2021

Dear Home Secretary

As both an MP and a mother to two daughters, I am personally deeply concerned by the reports of women being drugged via drinks or needles in nightclubs and elsewhere, which I know both yourself and colleagues in the Home Office are urgently looking at, and I want to thank you for all of your hard work on this matter.

I know, particularly from disturbing personal experiences, the concerns of women across the country are real and I want to support efforts to stop these shocking, despicable and sadistic crimes. Two years ago, someone spiked my drink whilst I was speaking to a friend, but fortunately I was able to spot the tablet and managed to avoid becoming yet another victim. However, even before this, at another bar, I was a victim of a spiking, although fortunately the only damage was a loss of memory and coordination during the evening, before a friend helped me home. There are countless girls and women who are not so lucky. It's embarrassing to experience and you feel like you are the only one - it's only now looking back I realise just how lucky I was.

I am grateful you have requested an urgent update from police on investigations into reports of women who may have been spiked, and I welcome the publication of the tackling violence against women and girls strategy, which will prove vitally important in increasing the safety of women and girls in bars and nightclubs. I know Minister MacLean, yourself, my PCC Katy Bourne and our Chief Constable Jo Shiner are determined to highlight and tackle this issue.

Beyond this strategy, I would like to enquire about the possibility of introducing restrictions on the sale of needles and paraphernalia, in order to restrict the ability of these would-be criminals to spike innocent women and girls through the use of needles, which has become a more prevalent and sinister method of spiking in the last few months. I hope this can be looked into further as a possibility to strengthen measures against these awful acts and ensure women and girls can feel safe and free to live their lives.

Grateful Mims

Mims

Mims Davies MP

Member of Parliament for Mid Sussex

Serving Burgess Hill, East Grinstead, Haywards Heath & the Villages